Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

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'War on ice will be long, dangerous, expensive'

BY JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

Deleon Guerrero

A campaign to minimize—if not eradicate—the proliferation of methamphetamine or "ice" will be "long, dangerous, and expensive."

This is according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero during a budget hearing at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill yesterday.

See WAR on Page 4

Typhoon Nangka approaching northern CNMI

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

» Typhoon Condition 3 raised in Agrihan, Alamagan, Pagan

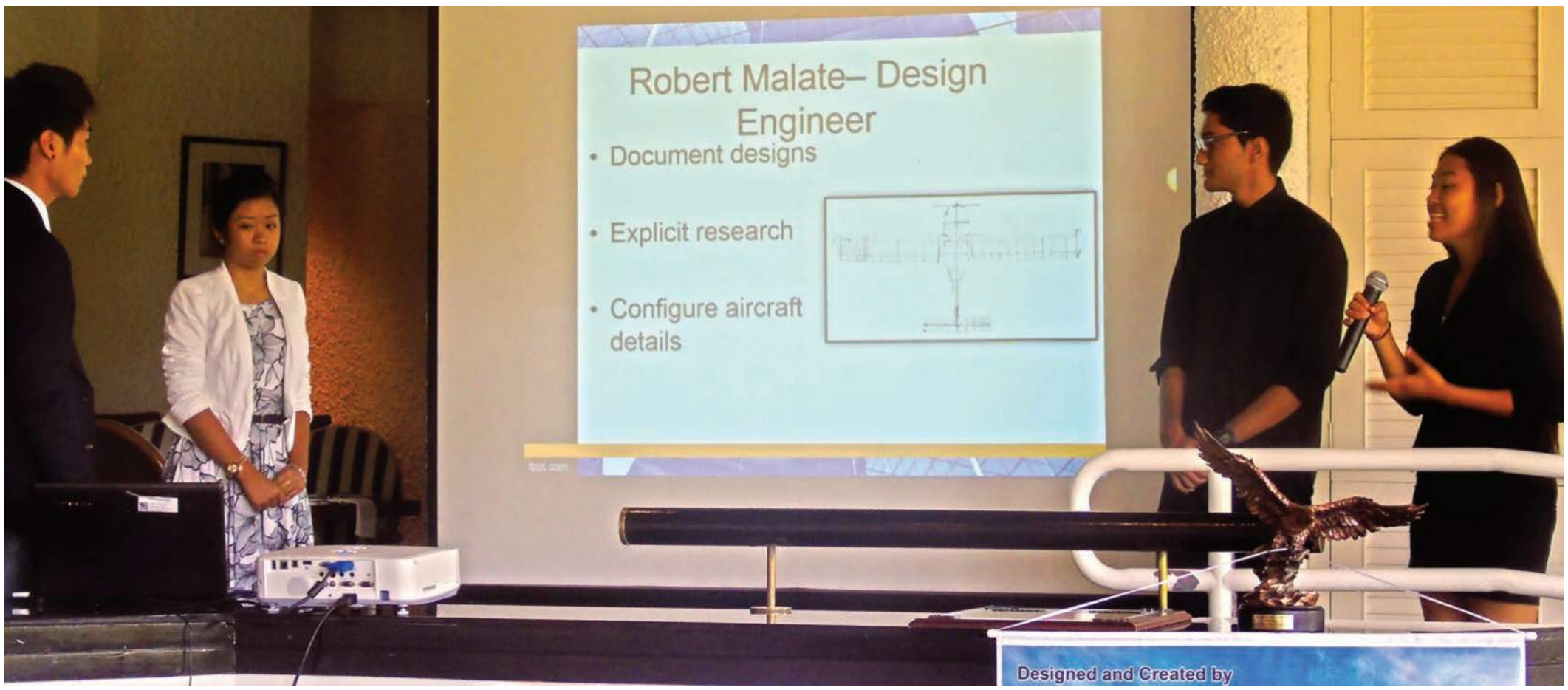
As a category 3 typhoon approaches the northern CNMI, acting governor Ralph DLG Torres declared Typhoon Condition 3 on three of the Northern Islands yesterday.

Due to Typhoon Nangka, the said condition as raised in the islands of Agrihan, Alamagan, and Pagan. It was maintained through the 8pm update from the Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Under Typhoon Condition 3, winds of 74 miles per hour or more are possible within 48 hours as the condition was raised.

Residents of Agrihan, Alamagan, and Pagan were advised to maintain necessary precautionary measures for gusty winds, heavy rain showers, and possible flooding in low-lying areas associated with the approaching ty-

See NANGKA on Page 4



CUC to review 2.1-cent kph infrastructure rate

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. eyes a 2.1-cent charge for a planned "infrastructure improvement" rate that will be reviewed by CUC consultants and board during their meeting today.

CUC consultants from economists.com are set to present to the board today, according to a copy of the meeting's agenda.

Speaking to the board during a meeting last week, consultant Dan Jackson said they would be presenting "alternative rate structures" in the wake of the board's decision to withdraw a debt service surcharge with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, the ongoing negotiations with the Commonwealth Development Authority to impose a

See CUC on Page 4

'SKYWALKER' FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

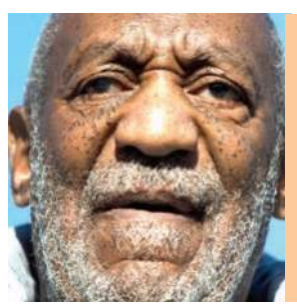
Members of the Marianas High School Aeronautical Dolphins presented "Skywalker," an unmanned aircraft system, which they designed for the 2015 national Real World Design Challenge, to the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday. The team will be competing at the national level on November after winning in the Pacific region for the fourth year in a row last April.

See story on Page 2

INSIDE

LOCAL
With 34 years of experience in the hotel and restaurant industry, Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's new sous chef Bernard Manansala also serves the island as an instructor in NMTI's Culinary Arts program.
» PAGE 13

ASIA
China is standing pat on its decision to reject arbitration by an international tribunal that will begin formal hearings this week.
» PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE
Bill Cosby admitted in 2005 that he secured quaaludes with the intent of giving them to young women he wanted to have sex.
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Local

Senate may not come up with own version of draft budget

The Senate may not come up with a version of a draft government budget before the House version is adopted.

The Senate has started conducting its own budget hearings yesterday.

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), chair of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, said the budget hearings are meant for senators as a way to ask more questions to CNMI departments.

"Not necessarily, but we hold hearing to know more about other significant number of issues," Hofschneider said, when asked if the Senate will draft its own version of the budget.

He said the Senate will instead wait for the House version.

The House version has been adopted by the House Committee on Ways and Means but is yet to be presented to the whole body. A House session is currently being scheduled to discuss the committee-adopted budget

Hofschneider clarified that the Senate committee he heads will start with the bigger departments.

"We have started with the big ticket items for the hearing," he said.

Yesterday, a budget hearing for the Department of Public Safety was conducted.

Other "big ticket" agencies, such the Public School System, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, among others, are also scheduled for the budget hearing, Hofschneider said.

The House version of the budget adopted by the Ways and Means Committee and was pegged at $149.5 million.

This "budget bill" for fiscal year 2016 is slightly higher than the government's earlier proposal of $145.8 million.

Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means pre-filed House Bill 19-86 or the "Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2016" last week.

A House session is expected to be convened soon by House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) to approve the draft bill.

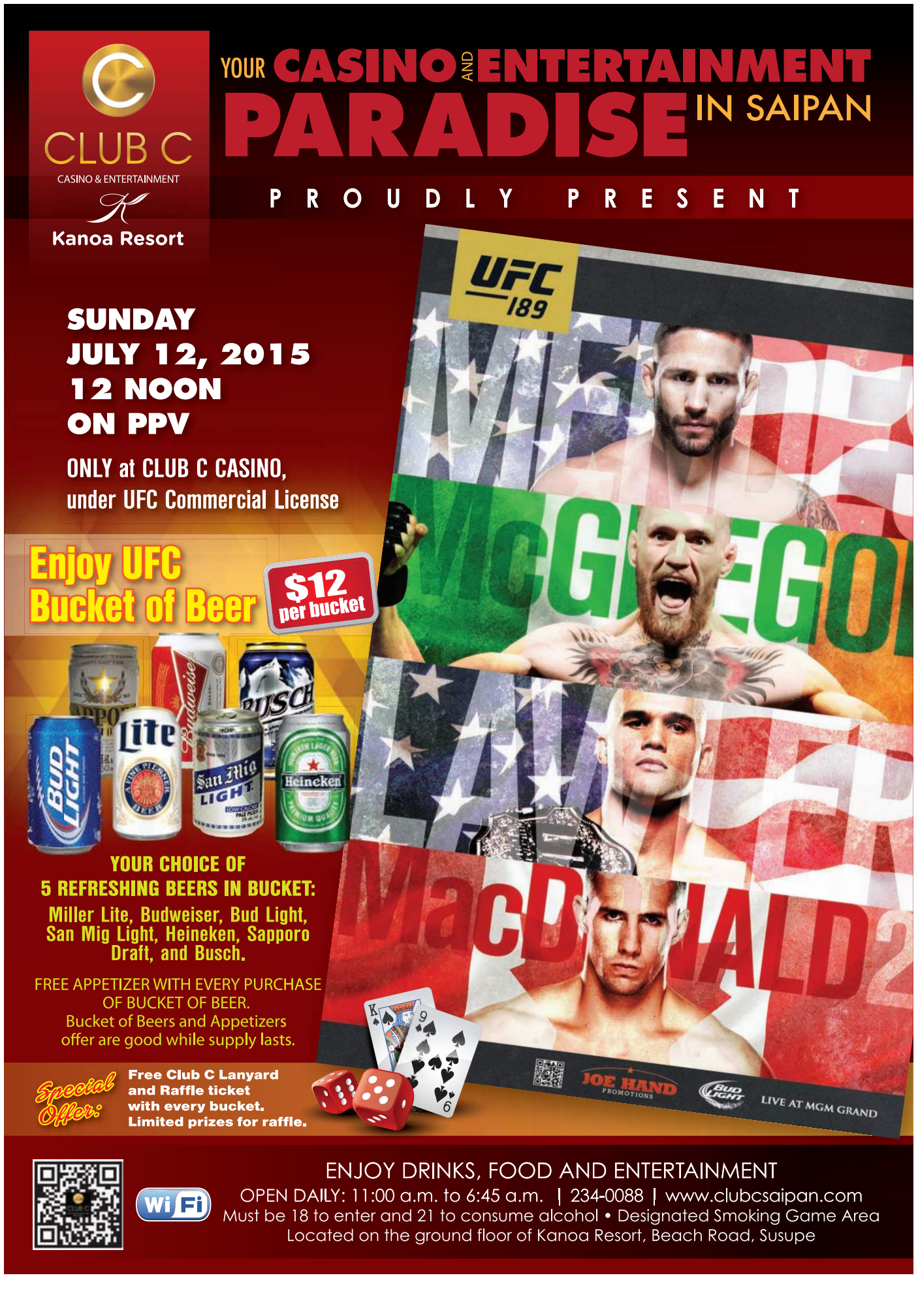
"We just passed the draft budget. It will be presented to the whole body and if approved, will be transmitted to the Senate," Sablan earlier said.

The House Committee on Ways and Means in the last few weeks has been conducting budget deliberations for the government departments in the CNMI.

Sablan said as expected, most of the agencies wanted more than what was proposed.

During the deliberations, committee members looked at the personnel requirements of the various departments, as well as possible sources of budget allocations on the balance sheets.

Some of the biggest CNMI departments, meanwhile, are scheduled to appear before the Senate chamber for separate budget hearings. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***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Regulators, DPS starts talk on casino joint task force

By JOEL PINAROC
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission and the Department of Public Safety have started exploratory talks on the possibility of a joint task force in preparation for the opening of a casino in Garapan.

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said he recently had a meeting with casino commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero to have the initial talks on a joint task force between the DPS and the commission.

"The problem is, though, is that they (the casino commission) do not have any investigators at this point in time in order for us to put the two components together," Deleon Guerrero said.

The police chief added that speaking of the casino, there are a lot of "unknowns" that need to be acknowledged.

There are a lot of circumstances, where it may not be a crime here in the CNMI, but it is a crime in other jurisdiction, he said, adding that he anticipates a lot of "test cases."

He again emphasized the need for more funding for the DPS so that the department "can plan to ready ourselves by the time the industry is up and running."

Armed security

Back in June, the Commonwealth Casino Commission discussed the possibility of having armed security personnel for Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s casino in Garapan, although the discussions were purely exploratory.

The topic was raised, and would require training for both the casino commission staff and members of the DPS, should they be asked to be deployed at the facility.

But casino commission executive director Deleon Guerrero stressed that the need or deployment of armed personnel is just one of the proposals that the commission is discussing.

Commissioner Joseph Reyes said the regulators will need to discuss with the casino licensee the topic of security. He said the casino operator would know best when it comes to security.

Best Sunshine executives, meanwhile, said a casino training school on the fourth floor of the Bank of Guam building in Garapan will be "open" to the regulators.

BSI and regulators also discussed the possibility of having casino commission staff get some training from the facility.

Aeronautical Dolphins presents latest design for RWDC

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

Marianas High School's Aeronautical Dolphins presented their latest design to the Rotary Club Saipan for their upcoming competition at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday.

The group, who was the 2013 national champion at the Real World Design Challenge, is now doing a kind of a partner plane with their last year's design which failed to defend their title.

Their 2014 design was an unmanned aircraft system that monitors and assesses crop conditions. This year, their aircraft system is designed to spill pesticide over crops without a pilot guiding it.

"Last year we had the information, know where the infestation is. This year the team has to build a sprayer, not a detector," said Aeronautical Dolphins mentor John Raulerson.

"The big picture of the fiscal year 2015 Real World Design Challenge is that by the year 2050, there may be an additional two billion people on Earth. And with that additional two billion on Earth comes the need for more production of food," project manager Ann Margaret Norcio said.

"One of the methods that farmers use to increase the production of food is the application of pesticides on crops that are infested. This all ties in with our aircraft design," she added.

Their aircraft, called the "Skywalker," is a 35-foot wingspan remote-controlled plane. Team members Edna Nisola, Masrur Alam, and Matthew Cao were also at the meeting to present their design as well as the business plan for their unmanned aircraft. Other members Jun Young Kim, Scarlet Chen, and Robert Malate weren't able to attend.

The seven-member team won't be personally going to Washington, D.C. in the national competition this November but will be presenting via Skype.

This is the fourth year in a row that the Aeronautical Dolphins won as the Pacific Real World Design champion after beating Guam, American Samoa, and other regional schools.

Aside from being the 2013 national champions, the group was also awarded national merit in 2012.

According to Raulerson, their science, technology, engineering, and mathematics program has been successful not only because of the RWDC but because of its positive effect on the students' careers.

"This program is very successful. It's helping these guys propel to the level of they want to do," Raulerson said.

Ogumoro: Request for Supreme Court to expedite decision defective

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro has asked the CNMI Supreme Court to deny Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman's request to expedite the issuance of a decision regarding his (Ogumoro) petition.

Ogumoro, through counsel Edward C. Arriola, moved the high court to deny Wiseman's request for an order to forego oral arguments in this case.

Arriola asserted that Wiseman's amicus request is procedurally defective because the trial court is not a party to this case and lacks standing.

Arriola said Wiseman has not sought a permission to request the Supreme Court to exercise its prerogative to issue an order without oral argument.

The lawyer also pointed out that the standards for dispensing with oral arguments have not been met.

Last month, Wiseman urged the Supreme Court to expedite the issuance of a decision regarding Ogumoro's petition to restrain him (Wiseman) from presiding over Ogumoro's pending criminal case.

Wiseman said Ogumoro's petition has been pending in the Supreme Court for seven months now.

Wiseman asked the high court to exercise its prerogative to issue an order without oral argument pursuant to CNMI Supreme Court Rules.

Wiseman made such request in his amicus curiae participant's filing.

An amicus curiae ("friend of the court") is an entity who is not a party to the case.

Wiseman said a swift resolution to this matter is firmly within the public's strong interest in ensuring a speedy trial, especially when it involves the criminal prosecution of a public official.

In Ogumoro's response to Wiseman's request, Arriola said the Supreme Court exercised its prerogative to hear oral argument when its clerk issued a notice of scheduled oral argument in this case.

"This, it seems that the amicus' is requesting reconsideration of the panel's decision to have an oral argument.

Citing a precedent case, Arriola said only an "intervening change of controlling law, the availability of new evidence, or the need to correct a clear error or prevent manifest of injustice" are sufficient grounds for reconsideration.

Arriola said Wiseman has not sought reconsideration from any of the foregoing grounds.

The Office of the Public Auditor charged Ogumoro with 15 criminal offenses for his role in, among other things, shielding then-attorney general Edward Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

Ogumoro

On Nov. 13, 2014, Ogumoro and the government filed a joint motion to stay all Superior Court proceedings in Ogumoro's criminal felony prosecution until resolution of Ogumoro's petition for writ of mandamus/prohibition.

In November 2014, the Supreme Court granted the stay and set the oral argument for Sept. 3, 2015.

Upon the high court's invitation, Wiseman filed an amicus brief on Nov. 28, 2014.

Aside from Ogumoro, OPA also filed criminal charges against former governor Benigno R. Fitial, Fitial's former personal driver and bodyguard Jermaine Joseph W. Nekaifes, Buckingham, former Commonwealth Ports police chief Jordan L. Kosam, and former police captain John T. Rebuenog.

Only the case against Ogumoro, Kosam, and Rebuenog are pending in court.

Fitial pleaded guilty, while Buckingham was convicted during a bench trial. The case against Nekaifes was dismissed.

Fletcher says ex-staff terminated for trying to sell illegal drugs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Allan Fletcher has disclosed that a former CUC employee who is suing him, CUC, and several others was terminated for offering to sell illegal drugs.

Fletcher, through counsel assistant attorney general David Lochabay, denied that plaintiff Zaji O. Zajradhara was terminated from CUC on pre-textual grounds.

In Fletcher's answer and defenses to Zajradhara's lawsuit, Lochabay said the plaintiff was discharged for, among other things, attempting to sell a controlled substance to another while in a CUC vehicle.

Lochabay said Zajradhara was constantly complaining and that his complaints had no merit.

He said plaintiff's many complaints were investigated and appropriately resolved.

Lochabay asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Zajradhara liable to pay Fletcher attorney's fees as his suit "is frivolous, unreasonable, and/or without foundation."

Lochabay said Fletcher's decisions in this matter were governed by legitimate nondiscriminatory purposes.

Lochabay said Zajradhara failed to comply with the directions and internal rules and regulations pertaining to his duties and those of other employees.

The plaintiff has filed a lawsuit after he was allegedly subjected to a hostile work place, such as placing a cockroach on his desk and other employees calling him "gay."

Zajradhara is suing CUC, Fletcher, and 10 unnamed co-defendants for whistle blower/wrongful termination, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and violations of the Americans with Disability Act.

In a pro se complaint or filed without a lawyer, Zajradhara asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay him damages and court costs.

The plaintiff said CUC initially hired him as a trades technician/operator in October 2012, but he was moved into various positions, including warehouse man, fuel handler, and trouble shooter for the water division.

He said that CUC terminated him on Oct. 24, 2014, on the pretextual ground of possession and conveyance of illegal drugs, in violation of CUC drug and alcohol policy.

Zajradhara said during his employment, he became aware of various violations of public policies, laws, regulations and policies committed by the defendants.

Zajradhara said at the work place, a racially offensive poster was placed, a cockroach was put on his desk, and employees called him "gay" and other slurs.

He said defendants succeeded in terminating him on Oct. 24, 2014, by accusing him of trying to sell marijuana to an off-duty police officer.

Zajradhara also claimed he suffers from disability as he has post traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and an injury to the right upper shoulder, and upper back.

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CHCC set to restructure nurses, other staff's salary

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Nurses and other staff at the hospital will be seeing a change in their salaries in order for the Commonwealth Health Center to be more competitive in attracting healthcare professionals, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna.

She said that the main focus in restructuring the salary of hospital staff will help in keeping the hospital's nurses and also attract many of the nursing students under the Northern Marianas College.

An informational meeting will be held on July 16 to gather input from the hospital's nurses. Muna says that it will help provide input from the nurses before any "number" is determined.

"We want to maintain our good nurses and for us to come to a certain point in retaining [them]," Muna said.

It costs the hospital much more to hire new nurses than retaining them.

"We already took away the housing and now we are paying for FICA recently…we've made a financial management decision on this matter and it is necessary. It will be more affordable to us and also will be more comfortable to the nurses," Muna said.

This not only includes the nurses under the CHC, but also the Tinian and Rota health centers as well, according to Muna.

"The meeting is basically an input. We're there to listen and we'll be the one to hear from them and not us to them," she said.

According to Muna, CHCC right now pays nurses between $24,000 and $40,000 per annum, while the Guam Memorial Hospital pays more than $40,000.

"Earlier we issued out a request for proposal rather to get bids for an interested company that would like to manage the restructuring of the hospital's salary. It isn't only for the nurses but also for the staff. We didn't get any bids, so now we're on our own and we think that the hospital needs to make the salary competitive," Muna said.

"We want to keep, train, and address the nurses salary and the staff shortage. This goes with every department. This is just one of the questions on what we do to make sure they stay," she added.

Aside from the nurses, Muna said that hospital staff are also in line for salary restructuring.

"I don't have exact figures yet for the nursing salary restructuring and will do it after the informational meeting," Muna said.

CNMI Labor looking into TDHC employees not getting paid

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor said it is looking into the issue of employees not getting paid by Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Over 600 Tinian Dynasty employees who are mostly alien workers were reported to have not received their salaries for more than a week.

"The CNMI DOL Tinian Office is looking into the matter," Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero said.

DeLeon Guerrero added that they are taking a "proactive approach" instead of a reactive one when it comes to enforcement of labor laws.

"It is my policy that active labor enforcement matters be pursued with consistency and diligence," DeLeon Guerrero said.

"This is the work and professional standards that the CNMI DOL is expected of and must do," she added.

Tinian Dynasty is one of the biggest private employers on Tinian.

Aside from the recent pending payment of salaries, a Tinian Dynasty staff said they also experienced delay in receiving paychecks of up to nine payrolls before 2014.

The staff added that they were paid on time only in July 2014 when the U.S. government filed criminal charges against Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments, owner of Tinian Dynasty.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury Financial Crimes Enforcement Network or FinCEN recently assessed a civil penalty of $75 million against HKE for "willful and egregious violations of the Bank Secrecy Act.

TOURISTS AT THE PARK FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A group of tourists visits the American Memorial Park despite bad weather brought by Typhoon Chan-Hom. As of yesterday afternoon, the typhoon was intensifying while leaving the Marianas region.

M/V *Luta* arrival faces yet another delay

The arrival of the cargo and passenger vessel M/V *Luta* will be delayed yet again.

According to Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota), the vessel is currently undergoing another round of certification from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Hocog said after certification has been done on the vessel's newly installed crane, and life rafts, it's now under a 24-hour "open sea" test.

Hocog said owners of the vessel would have no choice but follow the regulations.

"Yes, it will be delayed again," Hocog said, adding that he do not have any new information as to when the vessel will finally reach the CNMI, particularly Rota.

Back in April, the owner of M/V *Luta* was said to consider waiving the transport fees of agricultural produce in the CNMI.

This is apparently one of the concessions the privately owned vessel is willing to give, after getting a significant funding support for its fuel and other costs.

Hocog earlier confirmed that $400,000 was approved for use by M/V *Luta*, a retrofitted cargo and passenger vessel owned by Japanese company, Luta Mermaid LLC.

Hocog said the owner of M/V *Luta* is also proposing to waive the fees for all farm produce transported between Guam and the CNMI.

Hocog said the fund will be mostly used for the fuel costs for M/V *Luta* as it sails from the U.S. mainland to the CNMI. He clarified that the funds will be good for up to seven months of the vessel's operations.

With the subsidy, M/V *Luta* can, in return, will provide discounts particularly on cargo fees transported between Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian, Hocog said.

Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution 19-03 was approved "to authorize the Department of Finance to pay for fuel, lubrication, and other costs necessary for the maiden voyage of the vessel from Louisiana to its new home port in Rota, and to provide for the personnel and operational costs of the Office of the Mayor of Rota."

The Rota Legislative Delegation adopted the resolution on March 20.

The vessel was said to set sail from Louisiana on April 15, and is expected to the reach the CNMI in about 36 days, but now, the schedule of its arrival remains unclear. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

CUC

From Page 1

moratorium on debt payments, and the recent release of fiscal year 2014 CUC financial statements.

The decision to withdraw the debt service surcharge petition, eyed at a 2.1-cent per kilowatt charge, was made by the board last month after discussions to improve CUC's "line losses" and also CPUC's rejection of this debt rate on "immediate relief" in May. As for the proposed moratorium, this was detailed in a letter to CDA last month, and the financial statements were shared with the board early last week.

"Given the changes that have occurred…We'd like to give the opportunity to present some alternatives for going forward," Jackson told the board.

"I would say that the default position right now is that the infrastructure surcharge would be the same as what the debt service surcharge is [2.1 cent per kilowatt hour]," he said, adding that they would like the opportunity to "run the numbers" before the board.

Jackson said they would talk about the status of their current filings with CPUC are and potential benefits to an infrastructure surcharge.

He said the question is, "How do we replace the revenues that we sought to get from the debt service charge?"

Board chair Adelina Roberto said they are thinking about using the same rate as they had for a "PIMC" rate, which was at 2.1 cent per kilowatt-hour.

The planned debt service charge was to replace this charge without adding more to CUC's monthly bills as the 2.1 cents had already been fixed. However, the rate expired at the end of April.

The CUC board is considering whether to implement the rate on an annual basis or revaluate it every 12 months. Jackson said last week they would be presenting on both alternatives.

The 2.1-cent charge would allow CUC to collect about $4.5 million a year.

The originally planned debt service charge was to pay off $4.32 million in deferred to CDA by October 2016. Right now, though, CUC aims for a moratorium on debt payment and interest.

As for the planned infrastructure rate, CUC has identified $10 million in needed distribution repairs and upgrades to improve efficiency and cut technical losses. These improvement include changing out transformers to match current loads, replacing old dilapidate poles, crossarms, and other hardware to improve reliability during storms, for example.

Then-executive director Alan Fletcher told *Saipan Tribune* last month it would take "direct investment" to make these improvements and that a targeted surcharge would restrict these funds to these specific projects.

WAR

From Page 1

A visibly emotional Deleon Guerrero again pleaded to lawmakers to increase his department's budget, which he said will allow the DPS to properly carry out its duties.

He, along with other senior officers of the DPS, faced member of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs chaired by Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian).

The DPS has requested a budget of $7.2 million, which is way higher than the administration's proposal of $4.5 million.

"The war on ice is long, dangerous, and expensive," Deleon Guerrero said, stressing that the DPS would need more training, more people, and dedicated legal counsel.

The police chief said "ice" is on the DPS' top list of priorities, along with preparations for a "booming" tourism industry, and preparations for a soon-to-emerge gaming industry, highlighted by the opening of Saipan's first casino in Garapan.

Deleon Guerrero said the DPS needs to have the necessary staff, the necessary expertise to deal with all the developments happening in the CNMI.

"I can't work with (a budget of) $4.5 million," Deleon Guerrero told lawmakers bluntly, when asked if he has a "Plan B" should the DPS fail to get its $7.2 million budget.

The police chief's budget request included allocations for 20 more police officers, a dedicated legal counsel, and a counselor.

Currently, the DPS "shares" a legal counsel provided by the Attorney General's Office, with the Board of Parole.

Deleon Guerrero specifically cited the legal counsel's role of updating the DPS' employee handbook, which has been in use since 1985.

"The DPS is perhaps the most liability prone agency in the CNMI. The government has to deal with costly settlements," he said, adding that this concern can be directly addressed by an updated handbook.

'Eye-opener'

Hofschneider, meanwhile said "it was an eye-opener" after hearing the police chief's recommendations and his report on the current state of the DPS.

"We are trying to get fund sources outside the general appropriations that we can tap into, so that we will be able to come up with a more clear budget for DPS," he said.

Back in June, Deleon Guerrero practically begged lawmakers to give his department the necessary budge.

"I'm not just asking, I'm begging," Deleon Guerrero said.

In the budget presentation, the DPS said it is earmarking a big chunk of the budget, about $5.1 million, for personnel, and $1.6 million for operations.

NANGKA

From Page 1

phoon.

They were also reminded to secure all loose objects around that needs to be strapped down or removed and secured to prevent being picked up and propelled by the strong winds.

Moving toward NMI

According to the bulletin, the eye of Typhoon Nangka was located at 605 miles east-southeast of Alamagan or 565 miles east of Saipan and was still moving toward the Northern Mariana Islands.

The current forecast track takes the typhoon to the northern CNMI tomorrow evening.

It was moving toward the west-northwest at 13 miles per hour but is expected to turn toward the northwest last night with little change in forward speed.

As of yesterday, Typhoon Nangka's maximum sustained winds were up to 125 miles per hour and was a strong category 3 typhoon.

Typhoon force winds extend outward up to 35 miles from the center, while tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 120 miles from the center.

Nangka is still expected to steadily intensify over the next few days.

Surf and small craft advisory

High surf advisory was also raised yesterday and is in effect until 6pm on tomorrow.

According to HSEM, the swell generated by distant Typhoons Chan-Hom and Nangka will produce hazardous surf along west and south facing reefs possibly spreading to east facing shores by tomorrow.

It said to expect hazardous surf at nine to 11 feet along west facings reefs and seven to nine feet along south facing reefs through today. It may spread to north and east facing reefs tonight or Thursday.

A small craft advisory is also in effect until 6pm tomorrow. It said that combined seas of 8 to 10 feet yesterday will build to nine to 11 feet today and 10 to 12 feet tonight which will produce hazardous conditions for operators of small craft.

The government advised the general public to avoid boating in these conditions.

Girl testifies how Grandpa Ping allegedly sexually assaulted her thrice

An 11-year-old girl testified yesterday how Jose Ilo Santos, also known as Grandpa Ping, sexually assaulted her thrice when she was only 7 years old at his house in Tanapag.

The girl took the witness stand after her mother completed her testimony in the ongoing retrial of the 63-year-old Santos in Superior Court.

The jurors started deliberating yesterday late afternoon after both the prosecution and the defense rested their case. The jurors went home at 6:05pm and are going to resume their deliberations this morning, Wednesday.

The government rested its case after calling to the witness stand the fourth and last witness, former police officer Patrick Sablan, who served as then-officer-in-charge of the case.

Chief public defender Douglas Hartig and assistant public defender Michael Sato, both counsel for Santos, did not call any witness.

Hartig moved for judgment of acquittal after the government rested its case.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, who is presiding over the jury trial, denied the defense's motion.

The alleged victim testified that she was playing jumping rope with her brother and cousins when Santos called her to his house, where he then sexually assaulted her three times in separate incidents when she was 7 years old.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Santos with two counts of sexual abuse in the first degree over two incidents that allegedly occurred on April 23 and May 7, 2011.

The girl said in the first incident, Santos touched her private parts using a glove.

The girl said in the second and third incidents, her private parts hurt after Santos sexually assaulted her.

She said in the third incident, she kicked Santos.

The girl said Santos would tell her not to tell anyone about the incidents.

The girl said she first disclosed to her teenaged cousin, whom she trusted, as to what happened to her.

She said she didn't tell her mother because she was scared that she would be mad at her.

In her testimony, the mother said that in May 2011 she learned about the incidents from her cousin, who also heard it from another relative.

The relative was the person that the alleged victim referred to as the one she trusted.

The mother said she and her cousin took out her daughter from school and brought her to a beach.

At the beach, her daughter confessed to her what Santos did to her.

The mother said she was very upset and crying. She said her daughter was also crying.

In the government's closing arguments, assistant attorney general Shannon Foley said the Commonwealth has met the burden to prove beyond reasonable doubt that Santos is guilty of the charges.

Foley said the girl cried while recalling the sexual assaults to then-police detective Sablan.

Foley said the girl told what Grandpa Ping did to her, to her cousin and subsequently her mother, police, doctors, lawyers, and court.

"How many times [she] would tell the story how the defendant sexually assaulted her?" Foley said.

The prosecutor said fortunately, the girl got help because of her decision to tell her cousin.

Foley noted Dr. Chad Lowe's testimony and diagnose that the girl was indeed a victim of sexual assault.

In the defense's closing arguments, chief public defender Hartig said the false story really came from the girl's cousin, who was a troubled person and even killed herself.

Hartig said children are susceptible to power of suggestion.

Hartig said children can be thought and can adapt to it.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom at 4pm, Hartig was still conducting his closing arguments.

In October 2012, the jury found Santos guilty of two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

In March 2013, Camacho sentenced the defendant to the maximum of 60 years in prison, to be served without the possibility of parole.

Santos appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court.

In December 2014, the high court then ruled that the trial court abused its discretion by permitting the victim advocate to accompany the girl at the witness stand. The high court reversed the convictions and ordered a new jury trial.

A retrial was held in March 2015. But Camacho declared a mistrial after the jury was left with only five members.

The second retrial commenced on Monday. ***(Ferdie De La Torree)***

Habitual offender arrested anew for allegedly burglarizing house, stealing purse near church

Lucas T. Manglona, a 38-year-old habitual offender, was arrested again on Monday, this time for allegedly breaking into a house and stealing a purse near a church in San Vicente.

At a hearing yesterday, noting Manglona's criminal history, Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio increased to $20,000 cash bail from the $10,000 cash bail that the court earlier imposed.

Manglona allegedly broke into a house located behind Jesus Is Lord Church and stole a woman's purse containing a driver's license, a bank Mastercard, two Social Security cards, four hospital cards, a Samsung cell phone, and $70 cash.

Police detective Myron O. Laniyo stated in his report that a police officer was dispatched to San Vicente on Sunday at 6:20pm after Manglona allegedly stole a purse from a woman.

Laniyo said investigation showed that while the woman, her husband, and their child were getting ready to go to church located in the same compound, Manglona came to their house and offered to sell tires.

The husband told Manglona he does not want to buy tires. The family then left on their way to the nearby church.

While at church, the couple's 13-year-old daughter went back to their house because she was thirsty. The girl came back and told her parents that Manglona was at their house again.

The girl's mother checked outside and saw Manglona coming out from their house and holding her purse.

The victim shouted at Manglona to return her purse, but he ran away. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-019

NAVY HILL PRESSURE IMPROVEMENT & WATERLINE PROJECT – PART B

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project– Part B in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of installation of 4"Ø Distribution line; relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals; installation of new service lateral mains; cut & cap of existing waterlines; booster pump by-pass system; replacement of non-working water meters; and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 150 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 10, 2015 at 9:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-15-019, Navy Hill Pressure Improvement & Waterline Project – Part B to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 4, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurance questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the CUC Board of Directors and Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approval. If CUC Board and CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 17, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, Project Manager via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez - nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, Project Engineer.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

JOHN RIEGEL
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Certified
USED CARS

2012 Honda Civic LX
STOCK #CE008819
Mileage: 37K
$14,995

2013 Honda Fit Base
STOCK #DC081749
Mileage: 13K
$14,995

2014 Ford Fiesta S
STOCK #EM165132
Mileage: 4K
$14,995

2014 Kia Soul LX
STOCK #E7725255
Mileage: 17K
$15,995

2014 Kia Soul LX
STOCK #E7746804
Mileage: 15K
$15,995
SOLD

2010 Nissan Altima SR
STOCK #AN526831
Mileage: 64K
$17,995

2013 Nissan Rogue Select 2WD
STOCK #DW026985
$20,995

2013 Kia Sportage EX 2WD
STOCK #D7485868
Mileage: 24K
$20,995

2011 Ford Ranger Sport 4WD
STOCK #BPA62697
Mileage: 15K
$21,995

2010 Nissan Maxima SV Sport
STOCK #AC802050
Mileage 60K
$23,995

2013 Ford Taurus SEL
STOCK #DG151392
Mileage: 16K
$27,995
SOLD

2013 Nissan Pathfinder SV 4WD
STOCK #DC600972
Mileage: 33K
$29,995

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See dealer for details • While Supplies Last. *Vehicles Certified with 61-point Inspection.

CUC report: $4 million in FY 14 losses

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s losses for fiscal year 2014 are half what they were in 2013, but this is due to delaying maintenance expenses because of cash restraints, according to an annual financial report.

According to the report, CUC says total losses for FY 2014 were $4 million, which is less than FY 2013's $8 million in losses.

This decrease in losses is due primarily to the "deferral of necessary maintenance expenses due to cash flow restraints."

Total operating expenses decreased approximately $4 million due to the deferral of necessary maintenance, CUC explains.

JOEL PINAROC

Members of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board, led by board chair Adelina Robert, third from right, attend a Senate meeting on Monday to clarify concerns by the CUC.

Total accounts receivable increased from $41.5 million to over $46, million, which is gross of the allowance for bad debts.

Bad debts increased from $30 million to over $37 million, the report says.

On their accomplishments, CUC said repairs were done on Power Plant 1 that included engine foundations and scheduled maintenance.

From 9 megawatts of energy in 2009, the power plant is now able to produce 62 megawatts of electricity as of September 2014, CUC said.

FY 2014 also saw continued use of $40.9 million in grant funding from the U.S, Environmental Protection Agency from FY 2011 to FY 2014.

CUC noted good progress in several waterline, fire hydrant, and valve replacement projects; an extensive sewer line replacement project; lift station rehabilitation; leak detection and repair; and an island-wide water meter replacement project.

Tinian Municipal treasurer rejects TCGCC payroll request

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission and its staff will not be getting paid anytime soon after the Tinian Municipal treasurer rejected the request for payment made by the commission and its staff.

TCGCC executive director Lucia Blanco-Maratita said that Charlene Lizama, treasurer of the Tinian Municipal, returned the documents to the commission attaching only her letter dated June 24, 2015.

"Her rejection of the payroll documents may delay the payment of TCGCC staff's salaries," Maratita said.

Lizama in her letter to TCGCC chair Matthew C. Masga, said that he (Masga) and two other TCGCC commissioners—Lydia Barcinas and Bernadita Palacios—have all expired terms and three commission seats are vacant.

"Due to the mayor's (Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas) declaration, this is notification that compensation for the three board members will be discontinued as of June 24, 2015," Lizama said.

"In addition any purchase requisition or expenditure by the TCGCC will need to be authorized and signed by either TCGCC commissioner Patrick San Nicolas or commissioner Esther Barr until a new chairman is appointed," she added.

Maratita said that Masga vows to fight for the staff's right to be paid.

"Even if it means filing yet another lawsuit against the treasurer (Lizama) and the mayor (Joey Patrick San Nicolas) for wrongfully withholding salaries that had been rightfully earned by the staff," Maratita said.

According to Masga, the "treasurer's action is grossly unfair to the staff and is yet another political maneuver which clearly affects the innocent staff."

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from Tinian Mayor San Nicolas but he has yet to respond to queries as of press time.

4-year CNMI State Plan on Aging submitted to ACL

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Office on Aging submitted the CNMI State Plan on Aging to the Administration for Community Living.

According Aging director Walter Manglona, they were able to submit the plan, which covers fiscal years 2015 to 2019.

The plan went through the DCCA as well as the Governor's Office before being submitted to the said administrations.

Prior to that, a public hearing was also held last June 17 headed by Manglona in Saipan and Office on Aging coordinators Valerie Apatang and Evelyn David in Tinian and Rota.

According to Manglona, most of the comments from the public were positive. Earlier, he said that the plan was made with the *man'amkó* themselves.

The four-year plan will provide direction for the Office on Aging for the development of a comprehensive and coordinated system of home- and community-based services that allow senior citizens and older persons with physical disabilities to continue to live in their homes and communities.

The state plan said it is aligned to the national goals and objectives of the ACL Strategic Action Plan of 2013 to 2018.

It stated goals set forth by the Office on Aging such as to provide information on the office's programs and services; to enable people with disabilities and older adults to live in the community; as well as to protect and enhance the rights and prevent the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults and people with disabilities among others.

PSS seeks special needs services during summer

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has amended their pay differentials to help provide summer services for special needs students.

Amended pay differentials for a "special education psychologist," among others, were approved by the Board of Education in their last meeting, according to chair Herman Guerrero.

The special education psychologist would be 190-day employee. The psychologist is eligible for a summer pay differential based on a fee for service to special children who need psychological services during the summer.

These services are: standard evaluation for special education eligibility at $1,200 per child; psychological evaluation on ability and achievement at $150 an hour; standard child development eligibility evaluation at $800; psychological counseling/intervention at $125 an hour; and psychological consultation with providers at $150 an hour.

Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that PSS needs services during the summer but doesn't have the staff they need to provide these services.

Guerrero said PSS needs to provide these services according to federal guidelines.

He said these tests identify services the child needs, for example.

PSS has seen a shortage of special needs teachers, with teachers often facing overlapping responsibilities across grade levels at their schools.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,) Civil Action No. 14-0149
Plaintiff,)
vs.) NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE
LAURION C. PANGELINAN and)
VERA T. PANGELINAN)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 14th day of November, 2014, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **29th day of July, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 002 G 61, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 03, the original of which was recorded 14 MAY 90 as Document No. 90-1900 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 27th day of May, 2015.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries to Hold Public Hearings on the Proposal to Revise the ESA Listing of Green Turtles in Guam and the CNMI

NOAA FISHERIES

This U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced on March 23, 2015 that it will open a 90-day public comment period for the proposed rule to revise the global green sea turtle listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) into 11 Distinct Population Segments (DPSs). Today, we announce an extension of the comment period to July 27, 2015 and additional public hearings. The Central West Pacific DPS includes Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The proposal would change these turtles' status from threatened to endangered. This revision would lead to more tailored and effective management of the species and its diverse habitats across the globe. The extension and hearings will allow all interested parties additional time and opportunity to comment on the proposed rule. The FWS and NOAA will hold public hearings in Guam and Saipan during this time.

The public hearings will be held at:

University of Guam
Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building
Anthony Leon Guerrero
Multi-Purpose Room 129
UOG Station
Mangilao, Guam 96923
Times: Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Public Hearing 6-8 pm
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Multi-Purpose Center (Saipan)
Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan
Times: Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Public Hearing 6-8 pm
Date: Monday, July 13, 2015

For More Information contact Joy Browning at 808/792-9400

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In re:) Civil Case No. 15-0120
Estate of)
MARINA J. DATUIN) NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
Deceased.)

To: Any person or creditor who claims an interest in the Estate of Marina J. Datuin.

You are hereby notified that Anne Marie D. Navarrete, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Islands, has filed a petition in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in which she seeks to be appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Marina J. Datuin. Ms. Navarrete's attorney is Marianas Pacific Law LLC, P.O. Box 506057, Saipan, MP 96950, Telephone No. 233-0777.

The hearing for Ms. Navarette's petition has been set for August 11, 2015 at 1:30 p.m., Room 223 at the Commonwealth Superior Court located on Beach Road at Susupe, Saipan. All parties claiming an interest in the Decedent's estate should appear at the hearing.

Any person with any claim against the estate or against the Decedent should file their claims with the Clerk of Court for the Commonwealth Superior Court no later than 60 days after the first date on which this notice was first published. All creditor's claims not presented during this time will be forever barred.

Dated: July 2, 2015

By: /s/ Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: 670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SAIPAN AUTO SUPPLY CO., : SMALL CLAIM NO. 13-0372
Plaintiff, :
-v- :
GRACE UCHAU, :
Defendant. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan,MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated June 12, 2015 by order of the Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

INTEGRATED RESORT
FACT FINDING

Find out the future of Saipan
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Channel 14 every Wednesday
(repeats on Mon & Tue)

Organized by
John Gonzales LIVE

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SKYWALKER PRODUCTION

"An unforgettable experience that was not just a thrill ride, but an educational one as well."

Taking part in this program truly gave me a better understanding on the functions of an integrated resort. Sentosa was pretty much an entertainment and family oriented concept. While Marina Bay Sands was more of a top end luxury resort. "Fact Finding" mission is something I would always remember.

Dwayne Davis, Student

Singapore was awesome. From high-end merchandise to souvenirs, Singapore's integrated resorts offer what my generation and other younger generations would like to have and enjoy on vacations, with friends and family, over the weekends and leisure time. I may have had doubts about the project, but the experience was over the top and beyond imaginable. If Saipan, could pull this through, life on the islands would not only be the island style, but may help a lot of our CNMI-born residents of all nationalities return back to our island and take over future positions that may be available.

Jason Camacho, Reporter

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Able to supervise, manage and coordinate the activities of mechanics, installers and repairers. Good judgment, decision making skills, and time management skills. Prefer some technical courses. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Front Office Manager (1)
Qualifications: Preferably a college graduate with a Bachelor degree in Hospitality or Tourism Management; a minimum of two years work experience as Front Office Supervisor in a hotel of significant volume. Ability to read, analyze and interpret journals, financial reports and legal documents. Ability to write letters, memorandums or conceptualizing hotel's objectives. Ability to effectively present information to top management and employees, in groups or individually. Ability to speak, write and read in the English language fluently. Fluency in Japanese is an advantage. Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, commissions, proportions, percentages, area, circumstances, and volume, and analyze such information. Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts, and draw valid conclusions. Comprehensive knowledge of business management, financial reporting and productivity requirements; Proficient in Microsoft Office program and Fidelio System software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Electrician (3)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum of five (5) years work experience required. Provide access for future maintenance and avoid unreliable wiring, consistent with verification and electrical codes, and other related duties as assigned. Capable of reading schematic diagram, and electrical symbols, knowledgeable on industrial electricity, circuit breakers, switches and controls. Must to work in a flexible way that allows for changes in assignments and priorities depending upon identified needs of the department. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Landscaping Worker (1)
Qualifications: Minimum of 2 to 3 years previous work experience. Cultivates and cares for ornamental plants and installs floral displays indoor or outdoor settings through performance of any combination of following duties as directed by supervisory personnel. Able to work a variable schedule on occasion including weekends.

Sous Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; a graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. Must have at least four (4) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Supervising-chef assistant Supervises and coordinates activities of cooks and other workers engaged in preparing and cooking foodstuffs. Assumes responsibility for kitchen in absence of EXECUTIVE CHEF. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

International Cook (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma; graduate from independent and vocational cooking schools, professional culinary institutes or a college degree in appropriate field or equivalent. At least three (3) years experience in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort. Must be able to prepare, season, and cook a wide range of international dishes such as soups, meats, vegetables, salads, entrees, and desserts in the Resort. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Baker (1)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Some previous work-related skill, knowledge or experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Demi Chef (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent, or postsecondary instruction from vocational schools. Minimum of four (4) years work experience as a Demi-Chef preferably in hotel. Comprehensive knowledge of kitchen hygiene practices and occupational health and safety standards is essential. Supervise and coordinates activities of kitchen operation and personnel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cafeteria Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High school diploma or GED certificate. Little or no previous work-related skill, knowledge, or experience is needed for these occupations. Must facilitate food service. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

A/C Refrigeration Mechanic/Technician (1)
Qualifications: Require post-secondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges that offer programs in air-conditioning and refrigeration or and associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or two (2) to four (4) years of experience. Able to install and repair industrial and commercial refrigeration systems. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Assistant Maintenance Manager (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or equivalent. Minimum of six (6) years experience in hotel maintenance plus 2 years in supervisory level. Valid driver's license and reliable transportation. Preferably some technical courses. Must know how to use Excel and Microsoft Word. Must know how to read floor plan and electrical diagram and understand centralized air-conditioning system. Adheres to OSHA safety standards that are applicable for the safe performance of job. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Powerhouse Mechanic (Power Plant) (1)
Qualifications: Require postsecondary instruction from technical and trade schools or community colleges, and/or associate's degree. Completion of an apprenticeship program or 2 to 4 years of experience. Perform routine maintenance or make repairs to mechanical, electrical, or electronic equipment in power plants. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Pool Attendant (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate with at least two (2) years work experience as a Pool Attendant. Knowledgeable on some sports and in organizing group activities. Must be knowledgeable with the use of chemicals for the pool. Certified CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

General Maintenance Worker/Repairer (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of two (2) years work experience as a Handyman preferably in a hotel or in a similar large building or complex with central plant. Willingness to work outside (if necessary) in inclement weather. Must be able to carry and lift heavy objects. Possession of a valid driver's license is essential. Perform work involving skills of two or more maintenance craft occupations to keep machines, mechanical equipment, or the structure of an establishment in repair. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Income Auditor Supervisor (1)
Qualifications: A bachelor's degree in accounting or a related field. Minimum of five (5) years progressive experience in night audit/income audit operations, preferably in a hotel. Examine and analyze accounting records to determine financial status of establishment and prepare financial reports concerning operating procedures. Must also have experience with inventories to include, but not limited to F&B, Dry goods and Housekeeping cleaning and guest supplies. Willing to work a variable schedule on occasion, including weekends.

Housekeeper (5)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Minimum 6 months work experience preferably in a hotel. Must be able to speak and write in English. Ability to speak basic foreign language is a plus. Good customer service skills are essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Tailor/Dressmaker (2)
Qualifications: Minimum of Three (3) years work experience as a dressmaker preferably in a hotel. Must be able to think creatively. Is able to design, make draperies, repair or fit garments. Must have an interest in fashion, color and style. Must have ability to work quickly, accurately and independently in a fast-paced environment. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Housekeeping Supervisor (4)
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. A few months to one year of supervisory/managerial capacity, in a five-star hotel, club, or resort. Preferably some basic knowledge of the hotel industry. Must directly supervise and coordinate work activities of cleaning personnel in the hotel. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

IT Tech Support Manager (1)
Qualifications: Any combination of education and training equivalent to possession of a bachelor's degree in computer science, information engineering, computer associates or other related areas. Must have at least five (5) years working experience. Experience in all areas of local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, implementation, and user support. Experience installing and supporting Microsoft server technologies. Working knowledge of local and wide area networks (LAN/WAN), Internet, e-mail systems, telecommunications and data communications, standard operating systems, software packages, and software. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Night Auditor (2)
Qualifications: College Diploma or Equivalent certificate, in a hotel or resort. Must have at least two (2) years experience in hotel internal auditing. Must be willing to work flexible night duty/graveyard schedule, weekends, holidays and extended work hours. Understanding of business processes and work flow design. Strong financial analytical background and must be knowledgeable on Microsoft office applications and other software are essential. Good communication and interpersonal skills are necessary. Also responsible in handling of company general funds. Ability to pay close attention to detail with a high degree of accuracy, adapt to changes in work environment, work as assignments and/or changes in priorities.

Food and Beverage Wait Staff (6)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 6 months serving experience required or 6 months current hosting experience. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Food and Beverage Wait Staff (Banquet) (2)
Qualifications: High school diploma/GED preferred. At least 5 years experience required in banquet and/or related field. Restaurant and Beverages experience preferred. Proven knowledge of Micros or equivalent computer software and cash check, credit card handling procedures required. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Food and Beverage Supervisor (3)
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent or training in vocational schools, related on-the-job experience, or an associate's degree. Minimum two (2) years work experience as F&B supervisor preferably in a hotel. Must be able to directly supervise and coordinate activities of workers engaged in preparing and serving. Strong customer service skills and people oriented. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Guest Services Agent (1)
Qualifications: High School diploma or GED certificate. Must have minimum of 2 years work experience in providing quality customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for service and evaluation of customer satisfaction. Must be able to handle customer complaints with efficiency. Must have multitasking skills, be detailed-oriented, and be able to solve problems in order to effectively deal with internal and external customers. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Cook (1)
Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent with three (3) years work experience preferably in a hotel. Basic culinary skills and good hygiene knowledge is essential. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Reservations Agent (1)
Qualifications: Preferably high school graduate. Must have minimum two (2) years of experience, in Sales and Marketing or Tourism, and or equivalent years of relevant experience in hotel industry. Know how to operate office equipments like fax/copier machine, telephone, computer (knowledge in Fidelio system is an advantage). Able to handle, arrange the agents or guests needs and complaints efficiently. Must have excellent communications, good quality customer service, and multitasking skills are a must. Must be able to work a variable schedule including early mornings, evenings and/or weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our resort. To be considered, applicants must be submitted not later than July 14, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

AS DELTA CONFIRMS SUSPENSION OF MORNING FLIGHTS

JSTA wants Inos admin to take immediate action

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Japan Saipan Travel Association has requested the administration of Gov. Eloy S. Inos to take immediate action to increase air capacities from Japan. This after Delta Airlines confirmed that it will be suspending its morning flight service (DL288/287) starting October 2015.

Tenorio

In a July 6 letter to Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, JSTA said it is "extremely critical" that MVA and JSTA work together to take immediate action on increasing air capacities by supporting charter flights as well as new and/or existing regular flights from any cities in Japan.

"Some of our member companies express the difficulties to continue businesses after the suspension as these companies [are] barely surviving throughout years of reducing flights from Japan," JSTA president Masaru Sunaga said.

"In order to achieve mutual goal in bringing back the Japan market to a stable market, the Japan ad-hoc members and JSTA have been working closely with MVA in the past few months discussing the various opportunities and proposed plans," Sunaga added.

However, the JSTA board said they have not heard anything moving forward "at this point" and strongly believes that they need "more specific" approaches and supporting programs to airlines such as Asiana Airlines and Jeju Airlines to entice the launching of their services to Saipan.

"We urgently request MVA to have regular meetings with tourism industry partners and share the information on action plans for both Saipan and Japan side. We would like to support MVA's programs and work together for the Japanese market's recovery," Sunaga said.

According to MVA statistics for the month of May, Japanese arrivals are down by 10 percent from last year and the decrease is expected to continue following Delta Airlines' decision to cut flights to the CNMI starting October.

In 2013 the number of arrivals from Japan was at 141,747, it decreased in 2014 to 110,234, and now from January to May of 2015, it is just 38,127.

In 2013 the average number of Japanese tourists visiting the CNMI per month was 11,812, in 2014 it decreased to 9,186, and in 2015 it decreased even more to a mere 7,910.

MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the tourism body is collaborating with Delta Airlines and major Japanese travel agents to pick the market back up.

"We have several programs in the works through our Japan office to increase visitor arrivals from Japan. One significant effort is in collaboration with Delta and the major Japanese travel agents to increase utilization of Delta flights during the summer period," Aldan-Pierce said.

However, this only addresses the summer period of increased arrivals from Japan.

Aldan-Pierce said that MVA in the CNMI, Japan, and Korea are working in close collaboration with hoteliers and Osaka travel agents to build a strong case for Jeju Air to launch a flight from Osaka to Saipan. Jeju, headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, will make the determination whether it wants to fly to the Commonwealth or not.

SHEFA to use prevailing wage and work assessment study to update priority fields

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board will use the CNMI Prevailing Wage & Workforce Assessment Study 2014 to identify the needs for its incentive grant for scholars under its "priority field of study" program.

As it is right now, some board members believe that SHEFA regulations governing the priority field of study are too broad, with too many fields of study.

This grant is an incentive program that seeks to encourage Saipan students to pursue college degrees that are highly needed on the island such as in the education and the healthcare field.

However, with growing businesses and the transitioning of contract workers before 2019, majority of the job market will lean toward the hotel side of developments.

SHEFA chair Oscar Babauta said that SHEFA has been holding off with many of the programs and now with the prevailing wage and workforce assessment, it will be put to better use.

SHEFA board member Ursula Aldan said that it is necessary to start changing the priority fields and that the study can help with the board members.

Babauta said that he and SHEFA chair for program and development committee, Raymond Muna, will be working closely on this issue.

Since last year, SHEFA board members have been tabling the idea of changing the priority fields to fit into today's priority listing in jobs. Aldan will also be working closely with this as she is the chair for SHEFA's committee on policy and procedure.

SHEFA's policy and procedure committee is seeking their input on the current types of field of study needed in today's workforce.

"SHEFA's goal is to update SHEFA's priority fields list so it corresponds with the Commonwealth workforce needs," SHEFA administrator Merissa Rasa said.

SHEFA's latest snapshots on data for student majors under its programs for Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 showed that majority of the students pursued social sciences and fine arts.

Social sciences and fine arts include arts, communications, political science, psychology, social work, and journalism. For fall 2013 and spring 2014 semesters, 25 percent went to social sciences and fine arts, 24 percent to education, 16 percent to medical and allied fields, 12 percent to business administration/management, 9 percent to criminal justice/law enforcement, 4 percent to computer science, 2 percent to accounting and economics, and 2 percent to tourism and hospitality.

With new hotel developers such as Best Sunshine International, Ltd., Alter City Group, Honest Profit, and other hotels reinvesting for improvements; students taking up fields in hospitality, economics, tourism, and accounting are at its lowest but ironically caters to these specific developers.

Emergency water outage today at Chalan Kiya

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the residents of Chalan Kiya that there will be an emergency water outage from 8am to 5pm on Wednesday, July 8, 2015.

The purpose of the water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, to repair a broken pressure reducing valve to return service pressure to acceptable levels. This project was part of the Chalan Kiya-Kannat Tabla Waterline Connection Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

CUC will be working hard to return water service to our customers in the affected area as soon as possible. CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project Please direct inquiries to CUC's Water Division at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

DUE TO DPL INACTION ON LAND CONTROL

USDA's EQIP program denied for Pagan farmers

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United States Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program has been denied to Northern Islands resident seeking to farm in Pagan due to the Department of Public Lands' inaction on land control.

Without DPL's action in fully implementing the homestead waiver act and the agricultural homestead laws as they are applied to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and not the Northern Islands yet, USDA's EQIP has been denied until "the issue of land control" is settled.

USDA Natural Resources conservation Service Saipan Field Office district conservationist Kendal B. Hicks sent a letter to Northern Islands Mayor Jerome K. Aldan regarding EQIP.

In Hicks' letter, he noted that the "two of the most significant eligibility issues for Pagan farmers" will be the requirement for prior, existing agricultural operations and the requirement for control of the land for the life of the EQIP contract.

"Control of the land can be achieved through a deed, lease, permit, etc…a good, minimum land control length will be five years," Hicks said.

The EQIP contract would have allowed Pagan farmers to receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices.

Hicks said that with a deed and survey map, the issue of land control should be settled.

"I say 'should be' because there needs to be a living person named on the deed as an owner…at this point in time, control of land has been the major road block for USDA assistance on Pagan, or any other Northern Island," he said.

Aldan said DPL needs to take action because Secretary Pete A. Tenorio is literally denying the Northern Islands beneficiary interest pursuant to law and it cannot continue.

"There is the village, homestead waiver act, and agricultural homestead laws just give us the waiver act and the agricultural until some of the requirements for village homesteads are amended," Aldan said.

"Because of the inaction by DPL in fully implementing the homestead waiver act and the agricultural homestead laws as they are applied to all CNMI residents inclusive that includes Northern Islands…It is a missed opportunity," he added.

NMDOA, MVA BEACH CLEANUP

Northern Marianas Dive Operators Association and the Marianas Visitors Authority joined forces to clean up Laulau Beach on June 29, 2015, where they cut grass, cleared brush, and picked up trash and debris. NMDOA and the MVA jointly adopted the popular dive spot several years ago.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PSS aims to be technology proficient

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System has finalized system-wide goals to progress students, teachers, and staff through online curriculums set to improve their technological skills.

According to Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero, the board in their most recent meeting approved this "PSS Technology Plan 2016-2018."

"By 2018, all students will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve success in the 21st century through digital learning technology and tools, which will prepare them for college and career so that they may become contributing citizens in a global society," PSS states in their technology plan.

By 2018, PSS wants 18 percent of eighth grade students in the cohort group to be proficient or advance in learning.com's "21st Century Skills Assessment."

Learning.com says they offer digital curriculum and assessments to help students and teachers integrate technology into the classroom.

By 2018, PSS wants 75 percent of teachers to be accomplished or highly distinguished in "Standard 4.d"—or in "integrating and utilizing technology"—of McCrel Educator Evaluation System.

By 2018, PSS aims to have 53 percent of its teachers apply teacher-directed technology as measured by McCrel standards.

By 2018, PSS also aims to have digital tools and technology make up 38 percent of their learning environment as measured by a designated assessment tool.

By 2018, PSS wants all school administrators to be proficient in the "collection of the use of technology in teaching and learning."

PSS says they will aim to evaluate their technology plan yearly through surveys distributed among teachers, student, and administrators. Unmet goals will be reviewed and addressed through "action plans," PSS says.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday Grandma Lou Roligat. Thank you for all you do for us. We love you always from Zion Jay-Ross and RickyJay.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-107
OPENING DATE: JULY 31, 2015 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF VMware Vsphere WITH OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT ENTERPRISE ACCELERATION KIT VERSION 6 FOR THE CNMI DPS BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLE, SAIPAN"

Copies of the Specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Submission of bid via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com is hereby authorized on this ITB.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
Commissioner, DPS

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Century Hotel

Is inviting qualified U.S Citizens
to apply for the following vacant positions

Position: (1) BARTENDER
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent with minimum 2 years work experience in the preparation of mixed cocktails required. Strong communication and interpersonal skills are essential. Able to work flexible hours including evenings and/or weekends

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Security Office at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than July 10, 2015. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE DCRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Special Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 at 10:00 AM at the BECQ-DCRM conference room, Suite 302, Gualo Rai Center, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
   a) Call to Order
   b) Roll Call
   c) Adoption of June 25 & 26, 2015 Meeting Minutes

II. **PERMIT APPLICATION**
   1. Villora Condotel Residence Project (CRM Permit Application No.SMS-2015-X-007)
      a. Discussions by DCRM Agency Officials and Director
      b. Permit Application Determination

III. **ADJOURNMENT**

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Plumeria Resort project under permit application No.TMS-2015-X-028. The permit application was submitted by the Alter City Group Incorporated for the construction and operation of a planned hotel, service apartments, luxury villas, casino, and golf course development on 372 acres of public land, specifically Lot No. 207 T 13, on the island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The public hearing is scheduled for July 23, 2015, at 5:30PM at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria, San Jose, Tinian.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Plumeria Resort project.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Greece, are you over it?

You've had it with that boss of yours, so it felt great to unload. This is what I really think, said you. And the next morning? With luck, you still have your job … and a relationship to manage.

So, Greece, are you over it?

Greek voters lashed out Sunday at their European creditors, voting to reject a bailout deal because it would impose painful spending cuts and tax increases.

The country awoke Monday to the spoils of victory: banks closed, economy in free fall, creditors and European leaders unmoved.

Just as everything was before the vote.

A cathartic exercise, maybe, for the people of Greece. But the future is still the same: Either Greece ponies up a sound economic proposal or it will be headed out the door of the eurozone.

That would be genuinely unsettling for Europe, but disastrous for Greece.

The surprise move by Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras to call a referendum wasn't quite as pointless as an employee temper tantrum. He didn't like the way negotiations were headed with Europe and the IMF, so he interrupted the talks to put the deal to a vote. He got the result he wanted from his citizens. But it hardly seems likely that he'll get the result he wants from the rest of Europe because his people joined him in a massive denial of reality.

European leaders on Monday responded to results with patience, but their exasperation is clear.

You may be wondering at this point whether this European office drama is anything more than a curiosity for Americans. There's a long backstory to this involving Europe's dream of building a continent-wide super-economy. Greece joined the common currency but couldn't endure the 2008 financial crisis and needed a bailout from Europe and the International Monetary Fund that totals $270 billion and counting. Here are the stakes:

■ If Greece defaults on its loans and departs the euro in haste, the country ruptures the European dream of togetherness and possibly inflicts wide-ranging damage on the global capital system. Globalization is like a sweater: Tug at the wrong strand at the wrong time and who knows what might happen? A further risk: If Greece is on the outs in Europe, it could swing into Russia's orbit.

■ If Greece stays in the euro because it receives a sweet bailout deal, other weak players such as Portugal or Italy could protest that they want the same generous terms. That's potentially chaotic.

■ Either way, the Greeks suffer in the short-term. The economy has contracted by 25 percent and won't stabilize for a long time, either as part of the euro or with a return to the drachma.

Tsipras is expected to present a new offer to European finance ministers Tuesday. He's already made one move he knew would please his counterparts: He replaced his finance minister, whom the Europeans had come to loathe.

Time is running short. Greek banks, still closed, are perilously short of cash. Europe will have to turn the spigot back on, or the government effectively goes bankrupt and has to hand out chits to pensioners. The Europeans, led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, won't agree to a new bailout deal unless Greece agrees to take its austerity medicine. Tsipras will have to thread a path that is acceptable to the Europeans. Otherwise, a Greek exit from the euro seems likely. That won't be put to a feel-better referendum.

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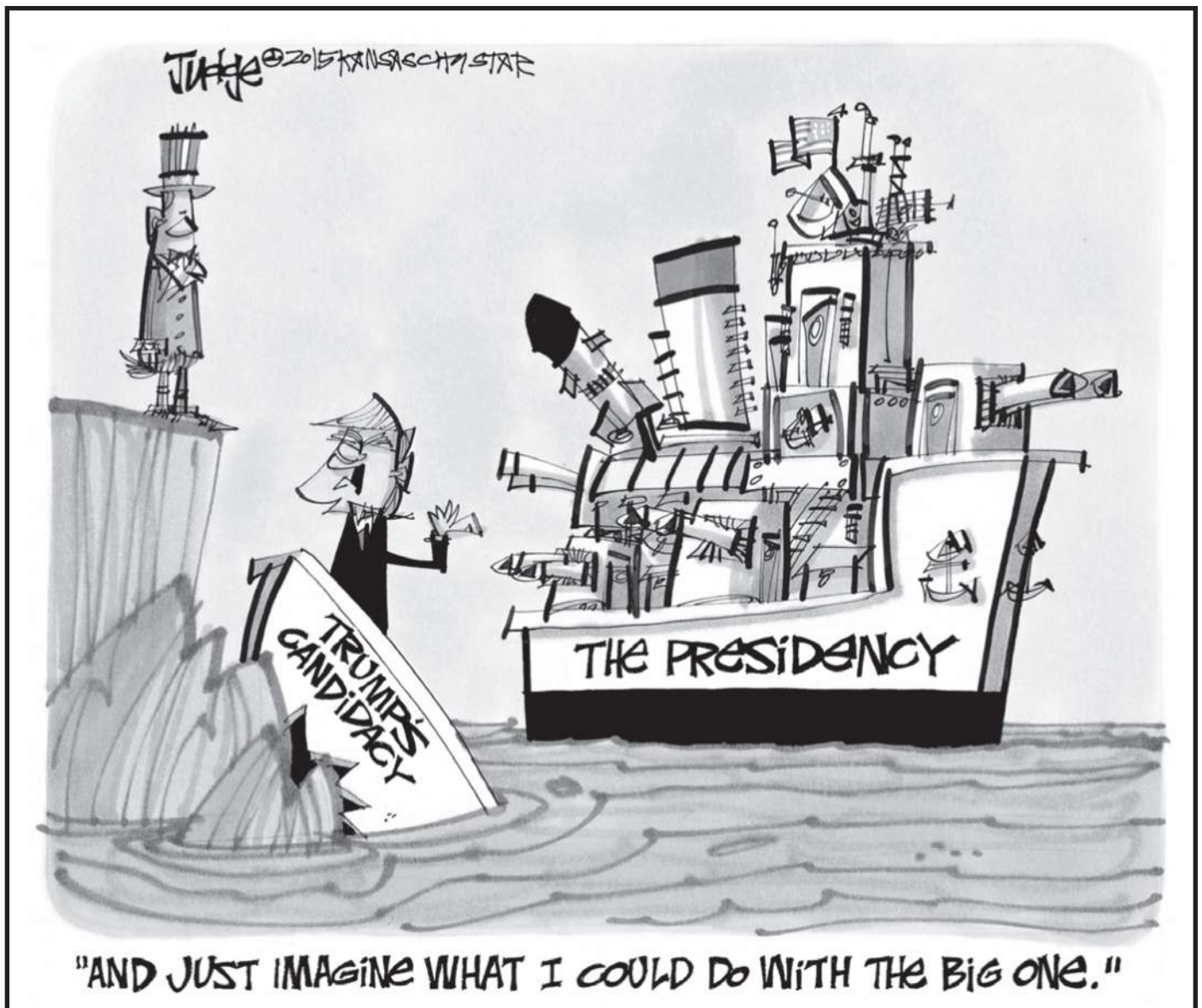


Strange events unfolding

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

It was a strange week with our ears filled with intersecting conversations among folks struggling to absorb mind-crashing events a bit sophisticated for the average citizen to understand. Those who understand the issues resorted to the rumbles and rhetoric of "ke sera" employing misguided compassion over the greater truths. I find this very troubling!

The Fitial commutation dominated the talk of the town followed by the silent fiscal temblor rumbling downstairs (creeping NMI bankruptcy) and the Puerto Rico bankruptcy where the Obama WH wasn't so accommodating. It was all over the newspapers and teeny tubes. Nonetheless, we had front row seat watching the unseemly events as they came tumbling down the mountaintop.

So the impeached former governor won't serve jail time. Does commutation mean his conviction stays as a matter of record, permanently? What's the legitimate reason for the commutation? I fail to see any in the garbled, if not, redundant excuses listed by the governor. Constitutional authority doesn't rise up to the level of legitimacy.

This isn't leadership but political demagoguery! It's intended to silence the social conscience. It's a royal failure for it emboldens the silent majority to fight harder in the near term to restore a "government of laws." Indeed, it's a strange week in paradise.

■ ■ ■

Kilili: I had the opportunity to meet with our Washington Delegate Kilili discussing issues of significance as it relates to future of the NMI heavily strangled in highly depressive economic condition. U.S. Immigration imposition to replace all CW workers by 2019 is an issue that must be dissected thoroughly to determine if it's a realistic benchmark. I have my own doubts given the various huge projects now in the wings.

Kilili looks healthy though slowly recovering from back surgery. He still has his mental acuity intact and the ability to listen to his people. Listening is the most vital quality of leadership where you come to terms with the voice of your people. Like it or not the rapport founded on listening is woefully difficult to uproot once it has grown into a healthy tree in our garden of public disposition. I still see the fighting spirit in him. He's learned to work caucuses in the U.S. House of Representatives to get our issues approved.

Our discussion was founded on commitment to try bringing the elected elite interested in the discussion of significant issues. I mean how could they miss their bus ride while standing at the bus station?

■ ■ ■

Storms: You wonder if the hospital would ever be funded sufficiently for its operations. Immediately behind is the $30 million owed CUC to which funds to defray it seems woefully elusive. Or is it the lack of funds in the coffers that has sent city hall reeling for money it doesn't have at this juncture? Are there options under such persistent fiscal crisis? Do the guys and gals have the coconuts to do something constructive to reduce the beastly debts?

■ ■ ■

Bien Biahe Sen. HQ Guerrero

Former senator Herman Q. Guerrero, one of the few policymakers with lasting influence in the initial development of our constitutional government, has died.

Amiably known as "Eru`" he was one of my former bosses when we were still a part of the Congress of Micronesia under the old TTG. A policymaker of distinction known for his sturdy "voice of reason," Guerrero served as a member of the COM Committee on Law of the Sea. He also served as member of the NMI political status commission and Marians Constitutional Convention.

He was highly intelligent, calm, humble, mindful, compassionate, and a man of integrity. He's one policymaker who thoroughly reviews substantive materials and prepares his own fully thought-out views. He went about his work with ultra-sense of humility employing reason in his review of issues. I relish his calm and collected disposition on significant matters of state.

The lasting impression was his ability to pen his own letters with rationality. He was my sole inspiration on the power of the pen. And for all the serious work he had to face daily, he never lost his sense of humor. He made our hectic days in the office a pleasantry. It was a distinct privilege and pleasure working with him. His demeanor and disposition as a public servant is indeed a leader to emulate.

Eru` was a pioneer in the group that worked the eventual approval of the Covenant Agreement with the U.S. Congress and President Ford. For your lasting contributions to the people of the NMI Si Yuus Maase` yan Ghilisow! We will remember you and your family in our thoughts and prayers throughout the week. Bien biahe!

Greeks push back against EU's 'lemon socialism'

By BARRY L. RITHOLTZ
BLOOMBERG VIEW

Barry L. Ritholtz is a Bloomberg View columnist.

What do Greece, Ireland and the U.S. have in common? Each experienced what was termed at the time a "new financial era" that produced an enormous expansion of its finance sector. This led to an intoxicating combination of aggressive lending, leverage and recklessness. In each case, the era ended in a financial crisis; perhaps most important, each crisis ended with a bailout of lenders, bondholders and bankers.

This hat trick of bank bailouts hasn't gone unnoticed in Greece. Yanis Varoufakis, who on Monday resigned as finance minister of Greece, might be a provocateur, but he is apparently no fool. Earlier Monday, in a blog post, he said "the Greek 'bailouts' were exercises whose purpose was intentionally to transfer private losses onto the shoulders of the weakest Greeks, before being transferred to other European taxpayers."

This astute (albeit little known) insight has been echoed by a small number of insightful analysts. My favorite of these is Steve Randy Waldman. His take on the Greek bailouts includes an in-depth discussion of the 2010 assistance program as "largely a bailout of European banks, initiated to prevent a wider banking crisis."

Alas, bailing out banks as a way to fix a financial crisis is standard operating procedure. What was called the "Mexican bailout of 1982" was, in fact, a bailout of the U.S. banks that made improvident loans to Mexico (as well as to Brazil and Argentina) that had gone bad.

As if to prove all parties were unwilling to learn from their experiences, a repeat of almost the exact same errors with the same players—bankers, Latin American borrowers and the U.S.—unfolded in 1994. The emerging market crises in 1997 weren't identical, but displayed similar themes of leverage, recklessness and loans gone bad.

Which brings us to Greece. The latest restructuring attempt has been emphatically rejected by the Greek people as little more than a bailout for European creditors. Although more pain awaits the Greeks (as well as those who made related macro bets), we are on the road to socializing the losses of German banks.

Consider the previous bailouts and restructurings: The austerity imposed on the Greeks made their economy significantly worse. The financial crisis might have been bad, but the bailouts made it a debacle, transforming a fragile post-credit crisis weakness into a full depression. According to Eurostat, Greece's gross domestic product fell 26 percent, to 179 billion euros ($198 billion) last year, from 242 billion euros in 2008. Per capita income fell 24 percent, as the unemployment rate rose to more than 27 percent, from less than 10 percent in 2005.

What the EU has foisted upon Greece appears to be a thinly disguised rescue for private sector (primarily German) lenders, not a plan for the future of Greece.

You may not be familiar with the phrase "lemon socialism," but that is precisely what this is: private profits and socialized losses.

Understandably, it is difficult for the public to accept the asymmetry of this situation, which explains why people respond by protesting (Ireland), voting down austerity (Greece) or forming new political movements (U.S.'s tea party).

With Varoufakis gone, the Europeans are rid of an adversary who made negotiations difficult. But the events he helped set in motion are far more significant than his negotiating style. The Europeans have to accept that Greeks are no longer willing to accept Austrian-style austerity as a pre-condition for a rescue plan. They are slowing figuring out that they would do better on their own than to suffer at the hands of European technocrats.

There's still time for a full debt restructuring for the benefit of the Greek people, not the German banks. Germany's rigid stance is somewhat ironic, given the generous debt forgiveness it received after World War II.

So far, the Greek people haven't been treated with similar generosity. It's no surprise they have rejected the failing prescription of more austerity.

Send in the clowns, that is the multiple Republican candidates

By DAN K. THOMASSON
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers.

WASHINGTON—With apologies to Stephen Sondheim: Send in the clowns. There ought to be clowns … but wait, they're already here. How many Republican candidates can one get into one of those miniature cars in the center ring of the presidential circus now playing an extended gig in various locations throughout the country? There are already some 14 or is it 15 who want to be the GOP's nominee for the job no one in his right mind would want in the first place.

Among the latest, of course, are the comb over champion of the western world, Donald Trump and the specialist in traffic jams, Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey. But then you all know that unless you're comatose, which is entirely possible given the stultifying bombardment of announcement and pronouncements presented day and night by the 24 hour media. And the finale won't take place for another year and a half.

What the late Will Rogers could do with this material is almost unimaginable. He once introduced Franklin Roosevelt, then an aspiring occupant of the White House, by not doing so, saying only that he wasn't going to waste any time on a mere candidate. Well there are enough "mere candidates" in this free for all to exhaust even him.

The sad thing is that each new entrant gets a fresh round of speculation from the national media and takes his place in the percentage game. You know, Trump is now in second or third place in the polls after having broadly accused the largest ethnic voting bloc in the nation of being unfit for citizenship. The immigrants crossing our southern borders are, he contends, drug dealers and rapists and who knows what else.

You tell them, Donald; that is the all white bread audiences in places like Iowa and New Hampshire, which play so large in the nominating process but are hardly representative of the national electorate.

By the way, you said nothing about the Spanish-speaking laborers and skilled workers who do the jobs that keep our real estate humming from houses to commercial building projects, probably some of yours.

There is no doubt given the circumstances that Trump has courage. It certainly takes that to fly in the face of a party in dire need of receiving a healthy slice of the Hispanic vote to succeed. NBC and Univision and a growing list of others — an estimated $50 million worth — have severed ties with Trump for slandering a relatively sizable number of their customers. But that's chump change for a billionaire.

After I had written nasty things about a state and its characteristics, my editor Bob Chase had said, "listen, kid, it's one thing to take on an individual, but quite another to ascribe morally questionable activities to everybody from there."

But don't worry, there is little chance that the Donald and his monumental ego make it very far in the preliminary rounds of history's longest presidential campaign. His is an ego trip.

The same can be said for most of the wannabes including Christy, who might have had a shot had he been able to control his appetite for silly competitive beat-downs, not to mention food. Does anyone really want a president who can't control his gastronomic impulses even after he underwent some kind of internal readjustment? Does he take time off for a ham sandwich and a sack of doughnuts before he pushes the red button?

Here's this guy who built his reputation on an "in your face" reaction to opponents and critics who expects to be liked enough afterwards to vote for him. That probably includes those constituents in Fort Lee, N.J. who endured the world's largest vehicle backup because of his vindictive staff members who wanted to get even for lack of support from a local politician.

I forgot to mention a third recent GOP entrant. Bobby Jindal, the relatively mild mannered governor of Louisiana. I was at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast a while back when he was the feature. He seemed like a nice enough little fellow although he spent the whole time yakking about the core curriculum and sidestepping any serious discussion about the state of the nation otherwise. Snore.

The great dour clown prince, Emmett Kelly, would feel right at home with at least half this line up. But maybe even he would have to smile.

Justice Kennedy's next crusade? It could be solitary confinement

By DICK MEYER
SCRIPPS WASHINGTON BUREAU

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC

WASHINGTON—Is Justice Anthony Kennedy the Pope Francis of the Supreme Court, a conservative coaxing his flock in surprisingly liberal directions? Kennedy already has become the court's patron saint of same-sex marriage. But, the truth is, he isn't so much leading the conservatives as confounding them by joining the liberal cardinals of the court on some key doctrinal disputes.

A possible hint about what Kennedy's next crusade could be came in a little noticed epistle he added as a concurring opinion in a death penalty appeal case (Davis v. Ayala), even though, as he said, it has "no direct bearing on the precise legal questions presented by this case."

Uninvited, Kennedy seemed to set the table for an argument that solitary confinement, so widely used in the U.S., is cruel and unusual punishment and unconstitutional. At the very least, Kennedy is inviting lawyers to start pushing those cases up to the court.

It's about time.

The idea that extended solitary confinement—"administrative segregation" is the Orwellian euphemism—is not cruel and unusual punishment is absurd. Yes, some prisoners are so dangerous they have to be in solitary to protect guards and other prisoners. But all available evidence indicates they are only a fraction of what Amnesty International calls the "entombed."

Kennedy writes that there are an estimated 25,000 inmates serving their whole sentences or large portions of them in solitary, mostly in sterile cells for 23 hours a day. A report last year by Amnesty International found that when prisoners in state, county and municipal jails are counted, there are roughly 80,000 Americans in solitary on any given day. No other country puts inmates in solitary at this rate.

Part of what disturbs Kennedy is that judges and juries have no say in who gets sent to solitary. It isn't part of the sentencing process. There is no consistent, transparent and minimally fair system for meting out what is arguably the most extreme punishment short of death.

"Prisoners are shut away—out of sight, out of mind," Kennedy wrote. "It seems fair to suggest that, in decades past, the public may have assumed lawyers and judges were engaged in a careful assessment of correctional policies …" That assumption is false.

However, there is growing attention to the cruelty and overuse of solitary confinement.

The broader context is that there is now agreement across ideologies that there are way too many Americans in prison. The U.S. is about 5 percent of the world's population but holds roughly 25 percent of the world's prisoners. That is an expensive and ineffective way to fight crime, and it's unsustainable. Many aspects of the criminal justice system are being reexamined from mandatory sentencing, to drug laws and, perhaps, solitary confinement.

There also is a wave of new lawsuits and perhaps some will be heading Kennedy's way. A bone-chilling story in The New York Times Magazine recently got details of some of the cases. The article quoted Craig Haney, a psychology professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz who worked on a large study of solitary.

"The emptiness that pervades solitary-confinement units "has led some prisoners into a profound level of what might be called 'ontological insecurity,'" Haney said. "They are not sure that they exist and, if they do, exactly who they are."

If that's too clinical, there is the case of Jack Powers, sentenced to 40 years for bank robbery in 1990, with no history of mental illness. By 2001, he was at the federal "Super Max" prison in Colorado.

"Over the next decade, Powers, by any rational accounting, lost his mind," the Times wrote. "He cut off both earlobes, chewed off a finger, sliced through his Achilles' tendon, pushed staples into his face and forehead, swallowed a toothbrush and then tried to cut open his abdomen to retrieve it and injected what he considered 'a pretty fair amount of bacteria-laden fluid' into his brain cavity after smashing a hole in his forehead."

Very few people survive extended solitary confinement without losing their minds. We've created factories to do this clinically and invisibly, which seems a loss of our own civic mind.

There is renewed and intense debate about the death penalty around the country today. In a recent dissent, Justices Stephen Breyer and Ruth Bader Ginsburg called for the court to reexamine the basic question: Is the death penalty constitutional?

Perhaps Justice Kennedy might lead the court's liberals to do some soul searching about the cruel and unusual abuse of solitary confinement as well.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Disrupting Tinian's economy

I'd like to thank Craig Whelden, Marine Corps Forces Pacific executive director, for the last two sentences in his letter of 07/02/2015, to the *Saipan Tribune*.

It read, "The Department of Defense has an important mission in the Pacific region but we are also committed to being good partners and neighbors. Working together, I'm confident we can achieve both objectives." I think few would disagree with those remarks.

I ask Mr. Whelden then how the fence he mentioned building, in a different article, across the north end of Tinian, which would keep everyone out, fits in with his good fences make good neighbors policy. Then speaking for NEPA in the 07/02 letter he writes, " ... a product that meets the needs of the military while NOT DISRUPTING THE SAFETY, ECOLOGY, AND ECONOMY OF THE AREA." (I have put those words of Mr. Whelden in capital letters.)

Would the SAFETY of anyone using the Tinian airport not be in jeopardy with the placement of a munitions dump directly under the flight path of all incoming flights? Would the ECOLOGY of Unai Chulu not receive massive destruction and be totally and permanently 'disrupted' with the placement of undersea ramps and subsequent amphibious operations as proposed and shown at the public hearings and in the DEIS? Finally, please have NEPA and/or DOD explain how any and all the proposed changes planned for Tinian would not seriously damage and "disrupt" the ECONOMY of Tinian in both its current and future business endeavors?

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly
San Jose, Tinian

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 20 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

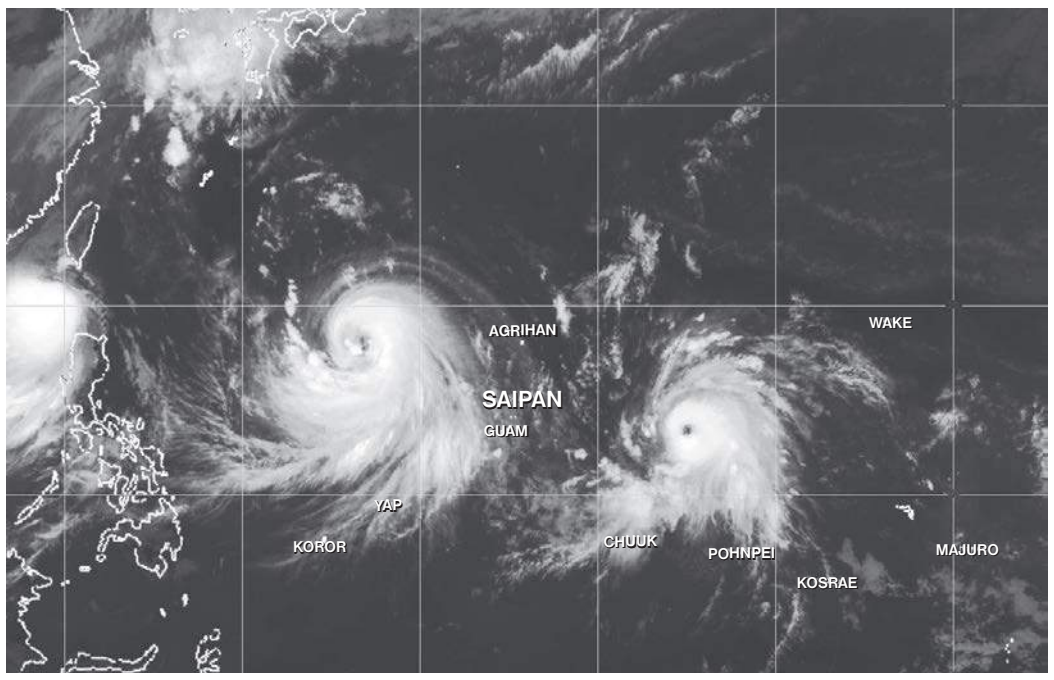
THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. West winds 10 to 20 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼77°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼77°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Chan-hom (09W) is centered 620 miles northwest of Guam near 18N137E moving west at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 85 mph. Numerous heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are observed near the center between 21N and 15N from 132E to 140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present west of Guam between 13N and 11N from 132E to 143E. For more information on typhoon Chan-Hom, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. Typhoon Nangka (11W) is centered 690 miles east of Guam at 13N155E moving west-northwest at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 110 mph. Heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 17N and 10N from 153E to 160E. Low-level convergence southwest of Nangka is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk state between 13N and 7N from 148E to 153E. Similar scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are also found mainly north of Pohnpei between 10N and 7N from 153E to 161E. For more information on Typhoon Nangka, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of Majuro within 60 miles of a line from 14N173E to 10N180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Sunny	▲84	▼78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼78

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼41
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲94	▼69
Hong Kong	Showers	▲90	▼78
Honolulu	Windy	▲89	▼75
London	Windy	▲70	▼54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼60
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼46
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲87	▼71
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼73
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼54
Pusan	Showers	▲77	▼67
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼71
Salem	Sunny	▲95	▼58
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼57
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼69
Tokyo	Rain	▲74	▼68
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲88	▼73

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:28 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
8:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
1:14 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:38 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:56 PM	11:36 AM
Thursday		12:33 AM
Friday	12:43 AM	1:30 PM
Saturday	1:31 AM	2:26 PM
Sunday	2:21 AM	3:23 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 2, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:05am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:30pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	1, 2, 3, 6, 7
7C3403	5:25am	9:10am	4, 5
7C3401	3:15pm	7:35pm	3, 5, 6
7C3401	4:20pm	8:05pm	1, 2, 4, 7

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/701	2:25am	11:05am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/701	3:20am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:10pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ6063	2:25am	6:00am	3, 4, 6
OZ626	3:20am	7:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ6063/721	2:25am	11:50am	3, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:20am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:00pm	2:35pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	2:55pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	8:45am	2:15pm	3, 5, 6
7C3402	9:30am	3:20pm	1, 2, 4, 7
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ6053	7:55pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL276/288	9:30am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/6053	12:15pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
PR110/UA5071	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:40pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:25pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:10pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/6053	1:10pm	1:25am+1	2, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:50am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5077	9:55pm	2:35pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

SOUS CHEF BERNARD MANANSALA:

From apprentice to sous chef to mentor

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Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan new sous chef Bernard Manansala poses with four of the hotel's cooks. With 34 years of experience in the hotel and restaurant industry, Manansala is also serving the island as an instructor in NMTI's Culinary Arts program.

After knowing he is a Filipino, I immediately asked Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan's new sous chef Bernard Manansala where in the Philippines he came from. And when he said Pampanga, I understood right away his passion for cooking.

Kapampangans are known in the Philippines as one the best cooks in the country and their cuisine is oftentimes sought after by locals and foreigners alike—as people in the CNMI would also know.

"My mom is a very good cook. When I was young, we had a restaurant and at the age of 10, I learned to cook. Back then I always cooked *arroz caldo* everyday and dessert like *halaya ube*, *puto*, and *bibingka*. At an early age, my mind was opened to cooking," Manansala said.

While cooking may be in the blood of Manansala, his being Kapampangan isn't the only thing that made him a great chef.

After high school, Manansala was offered a summer job at then Manila Hilton (now Manila Pavilion), a five-star hotel that served as the center of Philippine high society in its heydays through the '80s.

There he served as a busboy while studying electrical engineering at the Central Colleges of the Philippines. At the Hilton, he saw how it was like in the kitchen.

"I saw the kitchen and it looked exciting. When I met one of the chefs, I told him I wanted to cook. It was fortunate that at the time they were starting an apprenticeship program," Manansala said.

After being chosen among the 1,000 to join the two-year apprenticeship program, many doors opened for Manansala. He joined many competitions against different hotels in the Philippines and topped most of them including the longest-running culinary contests in Asia called Chefs on Parade in 1986 and 1987 where he was a gold medalist.

He was transferred to Shanghai Hilton in China in 1988 and then worked in a cruise ship for six years.

While in the cruise business, experience turned to be the best teacher for Manansala. And though he didn't spend time in any culinary school, the places he's been to while working became his training ground. He learned authentic and traditional cooking styles and techniques straight from each cuisine's origin.

"Every time I want to learn something, they allow me to do it," Manansala said, "If I want to learn authentic paella, they send me to Spain, leave me there for a week, and learn authentic paella."

At the age of 27, Manansala became a sous chef. Coming to Guam, he held several positions in various hotels and even had his own restaurant during his 23 years on the island.

Manansala has been with Fiesta Resort for eight months now and has been leading the hotel's efforts to uphold kitchen and cooking standards.

From apprentice to mentor

With his 34 years of experience in the hotel and restaurant industry, it is only fitting for Manansala to become a teacher in his field. Coming to Saipan, he realized the "need" to teach, not only for Fiesta's but for the CNMI's future as well.

Currently, Manansala is teaching six students under the Northern Marianas Technical Institute's Culinary Arts program.

"I'm not going to stop until these guys are in the best shape," Manansala said.

The program covers sanitation and food safety, food preparation, service, and interpersonal skills. Fiesta Resort's kitchen serves as the student's training ground as they consider career opportunities and prepare to enter the workforce.

According to Manansala, one of the things that he wanted to impart to them, aside from learning styles of cooking, is attitude.

He wants his students to be true professionals in the work place and have a drive—not just settle in some positions.

"Your purpose is not only to be a good cook, but to be a good manager or supervisor. Don't aim low, aim high," he added.

Manansala also wants his students to love working for their island.

"I told them, 'you have to take your island back,'" Manansala said, "This is your place."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GREEN GALA DONATION

Bridge Capital, LLC has agreed to become a major sponsor of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's 2015 Green Gala. From left, MINA CRI intern Anathalia David, Bridge Capital, LLC chief operating officer Jody R. Jordahl, MINA board member Eleanor Cabrera, MINA board member Ron Smith, MINA board member Fran Castro, MINA CRI intern Nikkie Ayuyu, and MINA project manager Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong pose for a group photo during the check presentation.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Attorney general warns against price gouging

As Tropical Storm Nangka approaches the Northern Mariana Islands following the heels of Tropical Storm Chan-Hom which has moved away from the Commonwealth, consumers should be aware that unscrupulous retailers and businesses may try to profit illegally from the storms.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan sternly warns retailers that the Consumer Protection Act makes it unlawful for any business to engage in price gouging. The Attorney General explains, "price gouging occurs when a business increases prices based on the shortage of goods caused by a natural disaster or any other emergency." He added, "the Office of the Attorney General will prosecute, both criminally and civilly, any business that engages in price gouging."

Contact Carla Torres, PIO of the Office of the Attorney General at 237-7500, or email Assistant Attorney General James Zarones at jzarones@dps.gov.mp for more information on price gouging. ***(PR)***

2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures set

The 2nd Annual International Festival of Cultures will be held Aug. 22 and 29 and Sept. 5, 12, 19, and 26 at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan and will celebrate the cultural diversity of the Northern Mariana Islands, with special emphasis on the indigenous cultures of Micronesia. Cultural groups are encouraged to contact Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects Specialist Ryan Calvo at rcalvo@mymarianas.com or 664-3210 to participate. ***(PR)***

Survivors, caregivers support meeting this Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room.

The guest speaker will be Ronald Sablan, Medical Referral director, Office of the Governor and the topic is "Medical Referral Program Update."

To RSVP or for more information, please call CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Air Force to conduct training at FDM, WA-517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- July 8 from 10am to 5pm
- July 9 from 7pm to 11:55pm

The Air Force will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 July 9 from 7pm to 11:55pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides frequent access that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises.

BSI artist registration open until July 12

Summer is here and in the spirit of the 70th Liberation Festivities, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. is welcoming CNMI citizens of all ages to submit artistic interpretations of the future of Saipan for the Discover the Future of Saipan Art Competition. As the focus of the artwork is the future, young artists' submissions are welcome and encouraged. Registration will be open until July 12. Artwork must depict the future of Saipan and must contain local elements of native hospitality and/or elements of the CNMI tourism industry.

The top 3 entries that receive the most votes by the end of business on July 17, 2015 (5pm) will be considered the winning entries and will receive cash prizes for back to school expenses or art supplies. The top 10 to 20 entries will also have the opportunity to be featured in a high visibility campaign. All entries and registration forms with must be emailed to bsiartcompetition@gmail.com. You can also pick up artist registration forms at the Mariana Business Plaza, Room 204. ***(PR)***

Interior approves $360K for A. Samoa, RMI, FSM

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina today announced $360,115 in grant assistance under the Office of Insular Affairs' Technical Assistance Program to engage youth and provide hemodialysis training in American Samoa; bolster food security and nutrition in Ebeye and Pohnpei; assess proposed powerplant facilities in Chuuk and boost student retention, student success and student graduation rates at the College of Micronesia.

"We received many more applications than we were able to fund this year, but I am pleased by the quality and innovation of the funding proposals we have received from the insular areas," said Assistant Secretary Esther Kia'aina. "Strengthening youth, collaborating with NGO's, building food security, health training and energy assessments are all important programs geared towards helping the people."

Boys and Girls Club (American Samoa)—$50,000 to support the American Samoa Youth Climate Change Initiative to create public awareness on the impact of climate change and promote education and advocacy amongst American Samoa's youth. The goal is to educate youth about climate change issues using methods that increase their knowledge and skills in the subject matter, and to develop an educational marketing tool through popular social networking strategies. The group would like to serve as an online resource center on climate change issues students in American Samoa and the Pacific region.

LBJ Tropical Medical Center Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technicians Training (American Samoa)—$48,082 to support training for technicians at the LBJ Tropical Medical Center. Staff members within the End Stage Renal Disease Unit (ESRD) will become certified clinical hemodialysis technicians. The ESRD unit is expanding from 21 to 37 beds, which requires a higher number of their staff be certified technicians, in order for the patients to receive quality care while receiving dialysis.

Pacific Wellness Centers, Inc. Kwajalein Atoll Sustainable Food Security Program (Republic of the Marshall Islands)—$75,013 to support the Kwajalein Atoll Sustainable Food Security Program designed to establish a research and production center that will provide traditional local foods to the island of Ebeye, while at the same time serving as a model and training ground for the 66 other communities in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The project will establish a tree plantation on Bikej Island with banana, papaya, breadfruit, pandanus, and coconut tree crops, as well as serve as a nursery to provide planting stock for other islands.

Island Food Community of Pohnpei (Federated States of Micronesia—$26,360 to support a milling and food processing facility for preparing local taro and breadfruit food crops for preservation, home use and for sale. This facility will be available to community members as an important step toward improving health through better nutrition and reduce dependence on imported foods.

Chuuk State Public Service Corporation (Federated States of Micronesia)—$57,500 to conduct an independent value engineering analysis of the CPUC power plant design, construction, plans, and schedule. This study will evaluate both the technical and financial feasibility of the CPUC design and construction plans, as well as assess the capability of the proposed plant to meet the estimated power needs of Chuuk State now and in the future.

The College of Micronesia Federated States of Micronesia)—$103,160 to partner with an institution to assess, develop, and monitor services to improve student persistence, student retention, and student success in the next two years while creating pathways to graduation. The college's graduation rate is 13.2 percent and course completion, student persistence, and retention rates are all declining according to the College of Micronesia Institutional Research Planning Office. The goal is to increase all indicators by 10 percent.

The Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas carries out the administrative responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior in coordinating federal policy for the territories of American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance to the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. The Assistant Secretary executes these responsibilities through the Office of Insular Affairs. ***(PR)***

Public invited to celebrate GUNG 34th anniversary

»Annual 5K, Static Displays on tap

The Guam National Guard (GUNG) will celebrate its 34th anniversary with a variety of events and competitions this weekend, beginning with its Annual Taotaomona 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, July 11.

Aside from the typical 5K Run/Walk, the Guard will also be running a couple of Guard-only races between the various Air and Army Guard units prior to the start of the actual 5K. One such race is a three-person Body Armor/Kevlar Relay Race, while the other is a 5-person team run beginning at 5:15am.

The 5K run/walk will begin and end at the Guard's newest facility in the readiness center in Barrigada. Known as the Combined Support Maintenance Shop, or CSMS, Building 800, is located directly across the John Gerber GMF Post Office. Public parking is available inside the readiness center or across the street at Tiyan. There will be a temporary crosswalk set up for foot traffic from Tiyan for the safety of all participants. Show time for the 5K is 5am with 6am go time.

Shirts are available to the first 2,000 registered finishers. Refreshments will be available and awards will be given to the top three male and female finishers in eight categories. Interested runners can register at the Guam Guard facilities in Barrigada or in Andersen Air Force Base, Guam AutoSpot, Hornet Sporting Goods or the Guam Premiere Outlets in Tamuning or on race day at the Guard's Readiness Center. All proceeds benefit the Guard's Family Readiness Groups.

Following the 5K run, beginning at 10am at the CSMS, the TAG Cup continues with Combatives, an M-4 Disassembly & Reassembly competition, LMTV pull, HMMWV push, and an Obstacle Course, featuring the best of the Army Guard versus the best of the Air Guard, will take place.

Additionally, the public is also invited to the Guard's static displays of their equipment, which will include the newly acquired UH-72A Lakota Medevac Helicopters. There will be jumpers for the kids and the Guard's Family Readiness Groups will be selling refreshments.

These events are part of the Guam National Guard's 34th Anniversary Celebration of its Charter and the 2015 TAG Cup, which began in January of this year, and provide an opportunity for members of the Guam Guard and their families to participate in sports events that aim to foster camaraderie and promote positive competition among units, as well as promote continuing physical fitness that is so important to the readiness of the Guard force.

The public is requested to please drive cautiously as the inner lane of Army Drive, from the Route 8 and Route 10 intersection, up to the John Gerber GMF Post Office, will be closed from 4am until about 9am on Saturday, July 11, to ensure the safety of all runners/walkers. There will be a temporary crosswalk set up for foot traffic along this section during this entire period.

For more information on the 2015 TAG Cup, please contact 1st Lt. Janette Sudo at 735-0458 or Master Sgt. Dexter Diaz at 366-7124 or Maj. Josephine Blas, GUNG Public Affairs Officer, at 735-0409. ***(PR)***

ROTA-BOUND

DEREK GERSONDE

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Claudio Norita, extreme right, and other DFEMS personnel pose for a photo with six firefighters from Saipan who were deployed to Rota on Friday to assist the island's DFEMS during Tropical Storm Chan-Hom's approach.

DEREK GERSONDE

Six firefighters from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Saipan prepare for their deployment to Rota on Friday to assist the island's response team during Tropical Storm Chan-Hom's approach.

MVA to hold GMM on July 16

The Marianas Visitors Authority will hold its semi-annual general membership meeting on July 16 at Royal Taga Ballroom, Saipan World Resort at 10am. Registration will begin at 9:30am.

The guest speaker will be Michael Merner, chairman of AVIAREPS Marketing Gardens that operates MVA offices in Japan, Korea, China, Russia, and Taiwan. Topics will include insights and updates on Japan, Korea, China, and Russia markets.

The meeting cost is $20/person for MVA members and $25/person for non-members. The cost includes light refreshments and lunch. RSVP should be made by Monday, July 13.

The MVA also welcomes new businesses, agencies and individuals who want to actively participate in the Northern Marianas' top industry as MVA members. Membership is $100 annually and includes detailed visitor statistics each month; opportunities to join promotional events targeting Japan, Korea, and other markets; the opportunity to promote member services on the five language-specific websites of the MVA; and more.

For more information, a member application, or to RSVP, contact MVA Community Projects assistant Charlene Mendoza at cmendonza@mymarianas.com or Valencia Tenorio at vtenorio@mymarianas.com, or call 664-3210. ***(PR)***

Business

Greek PM Tsipras races to restart talks after vote win

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras heads Tuesday to Brussels, where he will try to use a bailout referendum victory to obtain a rescue deal with European leaders. Tsipras faces intense pressure from creditors abroad and banks at home who all demand what Greece lacks: money.

As the Greek leader readied proposals to restart bailout talks, the situation was complicated by the European Central Bank's refusal late Monday to increase assistance for Greek banks desperately needing cash and facing imminent collapse unless a rescue deal is reached.

A hastily called meeting of eurozone finance ministers is slated for Tuesday afternoon, and a full summit of the leaders of the 19 euro countries was to be held that evening.

With Greece's future in the European Union and its euro currency at stake, a Monday meeting between German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande in Paris set the tone for the Brussels talks.

"Time is of the essence," Merkel said afterward. "(Greek) proposals have to be on the table this week."

Tsipras scored a bigger than expected win in Sunday's bailout referendum, with 61 percent of voters rejecting the economic measures creditors had proposed in exchange for loans Greece needs to remain afloat, including further cuts to pensions.

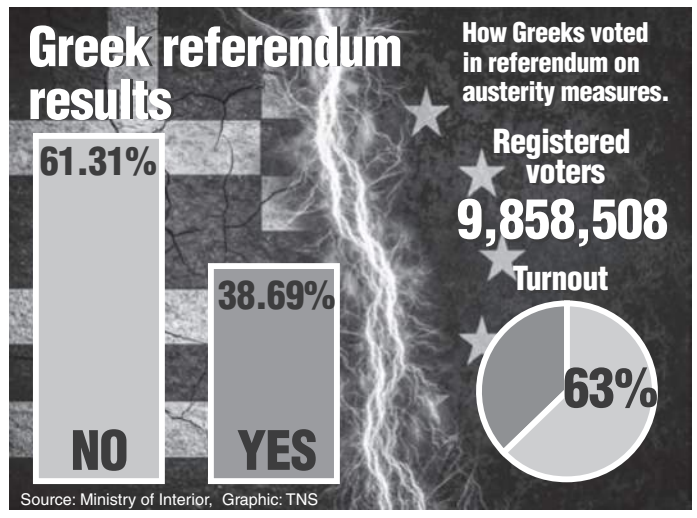
In a sign of compromise, Tsipras appointed a new finance minister to lead talks with creditors and replace Yanis Varoufakis, who clashed with his European counterparts.

Euclid Tsakalotos, a 55-year-old economist, has appeared more willing to engage with creditors. He will be tested as soon as Tuesday, in Brussels.

"I won't hide from you that I am very nervous and very anxious. I am not taking over at the easiest moment in Greek history," Tsakalotos said after being sworn in.

Greek banks are running out of cash even after the government placed limits on how much depositors can withdraw. The ECB has been providing emergency credit to the banks, but on Monday said it could not increase the amount offered because the banks' collateral was weaker now, after the "no" vote.

Normal commerce is now impossible in Greece. Small busi-



AP

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, center, arrives to attend a meeting with Greek political party leaders at the Presidential Palace as Minister of State Nikos Pappas, left, and Government spokesman Gabriel Sakellaridis, right, follow him in Athens, Monday, July 6, 2015.

Crude oil tumbles 8 pct, points to low gas prices this fall

NEW YORK (AP)—A slew of global economic and geopolitical factors are working to pummel the price of oil and set up U.S. drivers for very low gasoline prices later this year.

The price of U.S. crude dropped 7.7 percent Monday to close at $52.53 a barrel and is now down nearly 15 percent from the high for the year set on June 10.

Gasoline prices in the U.S. will likely slide somewhat from a national average of $2.77 over the next few weeks. Experts then expect a substantial decline in late summer and fall, pushing average gasoline prices in some low-price states below $2 a gallon again.

"We're going back to some of those low numbers we saw over the winter," said Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service. "In some places (gas) prices starting with a 1 should come back by football season."

There are several signs around the world that point to falling demand for crude and fuels at a time when supplies are high and possibly rising:

■ The Greek financial crisis could slow economic activity in Europe, which would reduce demand for gasoline and diesel.

■ China's oil imports have already slipped this year and a plummeting Chinese stock market could mean even weaker demand in the world's second largest oil consumer.

■ Oil production in OPEC, driven by strong production from Saudi Arabia and Iraq, is helping to keep the world's supplies high. OPEC's June production rose for the fourth month in a row, to 31.3 million barrels per day, according to a report Monday from Platts. That's 1.3 million barrels per day more than the cartel's official target and the highest level since August of 2012.

■ Iran is eager to begin exporting oil that has been held back by sanctions, and talks between the U.S. and Iran that could lift those sanctions appear to be progressing.

■ U.S. oil production remained strong even after drillers slowed their activity in the face of low oil prices—and now some drillers are ramping up production again.

The financial turmoil in Greece and China is also strengthening the dollar, which tends to push down the price of oil because oil is priced in dollars around the world.

"All signs point south for oil prices," wrote Thomas Pugh, commodities economist at Capital Economics, in a report Monday. Pugh reduced his forecast for oil prices at the end of this year by $5 to $50 a barrel.

Starbucks: Prices for some drinks to go up by 5 to 20 cents

NEW YORK (AP)—Starbucks is raising prices again starting Tuesday, with the increases ranging from 5 to 20 cents for most affected drinks, the company said.

The Seattle-based company also raised prices nationally about a year ago.

A small and large brewed coffee will each go up by 10 cents in most areas of the country, Starbucks says. That would bring the price of a large coffee to $2.45 in most U.S. stores.

Some other coffee sellers are cutting prices. Last week, The J.M. Smucker Co. said it would cut prices for most of its coffee products because of declines in future prices for unroasted coffee beans. In an emailed statement Monday, Starbucks Corp. said coffee costs are only part of its expenses, which also include rent, labor, marketing and equipment.

The statement said the company continually evaluates pricing to "balance the need to run our business profitably while continuing to provide value to our loyal customers and to attract new customers."

A representative for Starbucks, Lisa Passe, said the price increases are expected to impact less than 20 percent of customers. But that estimate is based on current purchasing patterns, which include more cold drinks given the warmer weather.

The price hikes mostly affect hot drinks, Passe said. That means the percentage of customers affected by the higher prices would likely rise as people start buying warmer drinks as the weather cools.

Prices are not being raised on any food items, Passe said. Starbucks has been trying to get more customers to buy food items like sandwiches in hopes of driving sales.

Samsung forecasts profit fall as S6 sales disappoint

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Samsung Electronics Co. forecast a fall in second quarter profit in a sign that sales of its much anticipated Galaxy S6 smartphones failed to meet expectations.

Samsung on Tuesday estimated its second quarter operating profit at 6.9 trillion won ($6.1 billion), down 4 percent from a year earlier. The result represents a 15 percent gain from the previous quarter but it was lower than the 7.23 trillion won forecast in a FactSet survey of analysts.

Sales declined 8 percent from a year earlier to 48 trillion won, falling short of the FactSet forecast of 52.8 trillion won. The South Korean company will release its full result for the quarter later this month.

When Samsung began sales of its Galaxy S6 and S6 Edge smartphones in April, there were expectations that the new flagship devices would lead a revival at Samsung's handset business, which suffered a stunning decline last year.

It retained the title of the world's largest maker of smartphones but its market share declined, squeezed by Apple in the premium market and by Chinese companies in the low-end market. Within Samsung, development of the Series 6 smartphones was dubbed "Project Zero," signifying the company's efforts to recapture the winning formula of its earlier phones.

Samsung was hit by two problems with its Galaxy S6 series. The regular version of the phone, the Galaxy S6, wasn't as popular as expected, while the S6 Edge model, which features a display that curves on both sides that is more difficult to produce, couldn't keep up with demand.

"The failure to manage the initial shipment for the Galaxy S6 series is the primary reason" for disappointing sales, said Lee Ka-keun, an analyst at KB Securities. "Demand for smartphones and other IT products were also weak."

Samsung's smartphone sales were also hit by a new law that was enforced in South Korea last year, which barred handset vendors from giving hefty subsidies to phone buyers. The measure has been a boon to Samsung's rival Apple Inc., whose iPhone sales in South Korea grew. Apple's newest models also featured larger screens that were similar in size to the Samsung phones, removing one of Samsung's advantages.

Nation

SC Senate votes to remove flag from Statehouse grounds

AP

Josh Clarke, of Shelby, N.C., voices his side of the Confederate flag issue in front of the Statehouse, Monday, July 6, 2015, in Columbia, S.C.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—The South Carolina Senate voted Monday to pull the Confederate flag off the Capitol grounds, clearing the way for a historic measure that could remove the banner more than five decades after it was first flown above the Statehouse to protest integration.

A second vote will be needed Tuesday to send the proposal to the House, where it faces a less certain future. But Monday's 37-3 vote was well over the two-thirds majority needed to advance the bill.

If the House passes the same measure, the flag and flagpole could be removed as soon as Gov. Nikki Haley signs the papers. The flag would be lowered for the last time and shipped off to the state's Confederate Relic Room, near where the last Confederate flag to fly over the Statehouse dome is stored.

The vote came at the end of a day of debate in which several white senators said they had come to understand why their black colleagues felt the flag no longer represented the valor of Southern soldiers but the racism that led the South to separate from the United States more than 150 years ago.

As the senators spoke, the desk of their slain colleague, Clementa Pinckney, was still draped in black cloth. Pinckney and eight other black people were fatally shot June 17 during Bible study at a historic African-American church in Charleston. Authorities have charged a gunman who posed for pictures with the rebel banner. Police say he was driven by racial hatred.

Several senators said the grace shown by the families of the victims willing to forgive the gunman also changed their minds.

"We now have the opportunity, the obligation, to put the exclamation point on an extraordinary narrative of good and evil, of love and mercy that will take its place in the history books," said Sen. Tom Davis, a Republican.

After the vote, Sen. Vincent Sheheen, a Democrat whose suggestion that the flag be taken down while running for governor last year was called a "stunt" by Haley, was given a high-five from a fellow legislator.

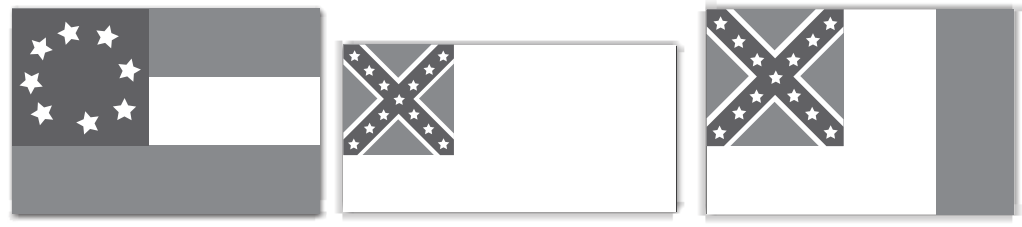
"I thought it would happen, but never this fast," Sheheen said.

Republican Sen. Larry Martin, who for decades fought off attempts to remove the flag from Statehouse grounds, said the church shooting drew him to the same conclusion that his black colleague arrived at long ago—that the rebel flag "has more to do with what was going on in the 1960s as opposed to the 1860s."

Martin, who is white, had family who came to South Carolina's then-rugged northern backcountry from Scotland in the early 1800s. That was about the time the enslaved relatives of Sen. Darrell Jackson, a black Democrat, involuntary ended up near Columbia.

Flags of the Confederate States of America

Official flags of the Confederate States

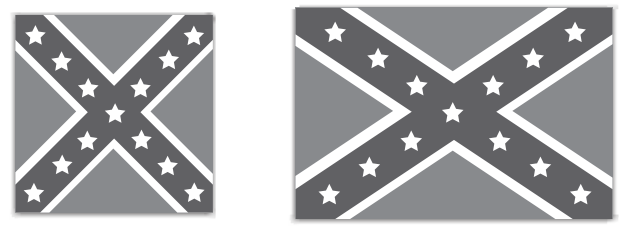


"The Stars and Bars"
The first flag featured eight stars for each state the Confederacy had at the time. The flag's similarity to the U.S. flag created problems on the battlefield.

"The Stainless Banner"
The second official flag was adopted in 1863. Its first official use was on Stonewall Jackson's casket.

The third national flag was adopted in 1865, shortly before the surrender of the South.

Battle flags



Army of Northern Virginia
This flag was issued to troops in November 1861 to distinguish them from Union soldiers. It is featured on Confederate national flags, Mississippi's flag, and is flown at the South Carolina Statehouse.

Army of Tennessee
Based on the Northern Virginia flag, this rectangular flag was issued to troops in 1864. The 13 stars represent the Confederate states plus one, hinting at the possibility of states like Maryland, Missouri or Kentucky seceding.

Current state flags

The current Mississippi state flag, adopted in 1894, features the Confederate battle flag in the upper left corner, and Georgia's flag, adopted in 2004, is similar to the original "Stars and Bars" Confederate flag.

Source: Smithsonian Institution, Museum of the Confederacy, South Carolina Statehouse, Georgia state government, Fotolia
Graphic: Tribune News Service

Arizona governor calls for probe of private prison unrest

PHOENIX (AP)—Days of unrest at a privately run prison in Arizona became a nightmare scenario as inmates rioted, trashed housing units and injured guards, prompting the governor to order an investigation Monday into the problem at the facility.

Gov. Doug Ducey told state prisons Director Charles Ryan to initiate the probe at Arizona State Prison-Kingman, which has a history of security issues.

"It is critical that we understand how these incidents occurred and how we prevent them in the future," Ducey said in a letter to Ryan. "The public also needs to know the facts and have assurances that prisons in our state—both state-run and privately run—are under control."

The unrest began July 1 in a minimum security unit when private corrections officers tried to stop an inmate-on-inmate assault.

A full-blown riot broke out the next day in the medium security unit after an inmate became aggressive with a private correctional officer, according to Issa Arnita, a spokesman for Centerville, Utah-based Management & Training Corp., which operates the prison.

The resulting riot left some housing units so badly damaged that prisoners had to be moved to other facilities. Nine corrections officers suffered minor injuries in the first two days of unrest.

On Saturday, more damage occurred when medium security inmates refused to follow orders and then went on a rampage. Four inmates were injured when state and private officers intervened.

More than 1,000 of the 2,500 prisoners at the prison have been moved to other facilities, including another Management & Training Corp. facility in Texas, a prison run by another contractor north of Tucson, and a facility run by Pinal County jail, corrections spokesman Andrew Wilder said.

A Department of Corrections assessment team was onsite and will be leading a thorough investigation into the incidents, Wilder said.

In 2010, three inmates escaped from the prison after a woman in a getaway car threw cutting tools over a fence. The inmates went on a violent crime spree that included killing an Oklahoma couple during a camping trip in New Mexico.

The inmates were caught, tried and received new prison sentences.

Management and Training Corp. has continued to operate the prison despite a scathing report from Ryan that faulted the company for allowing security flaws and poor operational practices.

In January, an inmate was sexually assaulted and beaten by other prisoners and died at a hospital three days later, according to a legal claim filed by his family. The legal action says emergency responders weren't notified for nearly two hours.

Fraying family ties cut to heart of theater gunman's defense

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—They show up in court every day, a visible reminder to jurors that even a killer has parents who love him and don't want him to die.

But more than two months into his mass-murder trial, James Holmes has rarely turned around in his seat to acknowledge them.

They called him Jimbo. He called them Goober and Bobbo. But the relationship Arlene and Robert Holmes had with their son had been strained since he was a young boy. After he left for graduate school, their communication was mostly confined to terse emails.

Holmes told a psychiatrist years after his gunshots killed 12 people and injured 70 in a crowded Colorado movie theater that he doesn't like to talk with people—even his mother and father.

Holmes' remoteness from his parents cuts to the heart of his insanity defense.

Prosecutors say he held them at bay in a calculated effort to conceal his murderous plans, even from those who raised and loved him. Defense attorneys say their fraying family ties reveal a man so delusional that he couldn't bear revealing his struggle, even to those who could have helped.

Just before the trial, Holmes' parents begged for a plea deal that would spare his life.

"He is a human being gripped by a severe mental illness," they said in a statement in December, as thousands of jury summonses were mailed. "We have always loved him, and we do not want him to be executed."

Now, the San Diego couple sits two rows behind him, scribbling into tiny notepads. Holmes flashed them a quick glance Monday as they entered the courtroom.

Mom of man killed setting off fireworks on head: rules lax

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—The mother of a man who tried to launch a firework off the top of his head for July Fourth and was killed instantly said Monday she's advocating for stricter controls about who can use the explosives.

Devon Staples, 22, and his friends had been drinking and setting off fireworks Saturday night in a backyard in Staples' eastern Maine hometown, Calais, when the accident happened with a reloadable fireworks mortar tube, police have said.

Staples' mother, Kathleen Staples, said she is going to reach out to lawmakers about the possibility of tighter controls over fireworks. The state should consider requiring safety training courses before allowing someone to use them, she said. She compared fireworks with other regulated items such as cars and guns.

"At least it'd be a little bit more than, `Here you go,'" Staples said. "That's an explosive. They didn't just hand me a license and put me in the car."

Devon Staples also had lived in the Orlando, Florida, area, where he worked as a performer portraying Disney characters such as Gaston from "Beauty and the Beast" and Goofy, his mother said.

She said he believed the firework was "a dud" that was unlikely to hurt him. State Fire Marshal Joe Thomas said that is unlikely because the mortar had been fired once previously and he "can't imagine someone would anticipate that it was a dud."

Staples' death is the first fireworks fatality in Maine since it legalized fireworks on Jan. 1, 2012, authorities said. Lawmakers had voted to repeal a 1949 law banning fireworks, reasoning the industry would create jobs and generate revenue.

Asia

China to snub arbitration hearing on feud with Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—China is standing pat on its decision to reject arbitration by an international tribunal that will begin formal hearings this week to resolve a long-seething feud between Beijing and Manila over the South China Sea, the Chinese ambassador to Manila said Monday.

The five-member tribunal starts hearings in The Hague on Tuesday to address China's contention that the arbitration body does not have authority to assume jurisdiction over Manila's complaint against Beijing.

A high-level delegation that includes the Philippines' solicitor-general and the heads of the foreign, defense and justice departments, along with Washington-based lawyers hired by Manila, has flown to The Hague to argue the Philippines' case.

The dayslong hearings are crucial because the Philippines' complaint against China could no longer be heard if the tribunal declares it has no jurisdiction over the case.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario has said that the Philippines would accept any ruling, "win or lose."

Although Beijing would likely ignore any decision, especially an adversarial one, Philippine officials said they hope China would eventually honor any ruling to show that it's a global leader that adheres to the rule of law.

Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua told reporters in Manila that his government would stick to its decision not to participate in the arbitration and instead renewed China's offer to resolve the conflict through one-on-one negotiations with the Philippines.

"Our position is consistent. We'll not accept nor participate in the arbitration," Zhao said. "Our door for bilateral consultation and negotiation is still open and will be open forever."

Responding to a question from a reporter, Zhao reiterated that China would never start a war with the Philippines over the long-contested territories. "I cannot imagine that China would wage a war against the Philippines over what is happening in the South China Sea. It is not China's policy and will not be China's policy," he said.

The Philippines brought its disagreements with China to international arbitration in January 2013, a year after Chinese coast guard ships took effective control of the disputed Scarborough Shoal following a tense standoff with Filipino ships. Manila's bold move has angered Beijing and strained relations

Chinese coast guard ships have since been driving away Filipino and other fishermen from the shoal, at times using water cannons in actions that the Philippine government has condemned and protested, Filipino officials said.

In its complaint, the Philippines asked the tribunal to declare China's so-called "nine-dash line" territorial claim over much of the South China Sea invalid under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Philippine government has also asked the tribunal to declare the extent of territorial waters that can be accorded to at least eight islands, reefs and atolls under Chinese control in the disputed territory in a bid to limit Beijing's reach in scattered areas of it.

Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam also have territorial claims in the busy waters, which are among the world's busiest. Tensions flared in recent months after the Philippines and other claimant countries discovered that China had undertaken massive island-building in seven reefs and atolls in a disputed region called the Spratlys.

AP

Protesters display placards during a rally near the Chinese Consulate at the financial district of Makati city, east of Manila, Philippines, Tuesday, July 7, 2015 on the complaint filed by the Philippines against China's claims of the disputed islands in the South China Sea.

Foreigner in PH tests positive for MERS virus

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A 36-year-old foreigner who arrived in the Philippines from the Middle East is under quarantine after testing positive for the MERS virus, health officials said Monday.

Philippine Health Secretary Janette Garin said several people the foreigner had come in close contact with have been traced. She said one of them, a Filipino woman exhibiting mild symptoms, had been isolated and that her test results were being awaited.

At least seven other people who had close contact with the patient were under home quarantine.

The patient's home country was not immediately disclosed.

It's the second confirmed case of Middle East respiratory syndrome in the Philippines. In February, a Filipino nurse tested positive for MERS after arriving home Saudi Arabia. She was cleared of the virus the same month.

In the latest case, the patient arrived in the Philippines on June 19 from Saudi Arabia but also stayed in Dubai. He left on a second trip while not yet exhibiting any symptoms and came back to the Philippines, said officials, who did not want to disclose where the patient went.

The patient developed a fever and cough on June 30, the health department said. He sought medical care on July 2, tested positive for the MERS virus on July 4 and was transferred to the government's Research Institute for Tropical Medicine facility.

Heritage title for Japan industry sites draws mixed reaction

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese officials Monday celebrated the U.N. cultural body's approval of world heritage status for 23 historic sites showing the country's transformation from feudal isolation into an industrial power at the end of the 19th century.

Seoul portrayed the decision as a diplomatic win after Japan also agreed to acknowledge its history of forcing tens of thousands of South Koreans, Chinese and World War II prisoners of war to work at dozens of factories, mines and other industrial facilities, conscripted to fill labor shortages especially toward the end of the war. China called for a better accounting from Tokyo on its past forced labor practices.

Though the number of survivors is dwindling, some of those who endured starvation, abuse by their captors and bombardment are still seeking redress, or at least apology.

Until recently, Seoul had objected to the listing by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee unless the role of Korean prisoners forced to work at the sites during World War II was formally recognized. The two countries sparred for weeks but eventually reached a compromise that finessed the issue. It is unlikely to entirely finish it, however.

"Japan is prepared to take measures that allow an understanding that there were a large number of Koreans and others who were brought against their will and forced to work under harsh conditions in the 1940s at some of the sites," the Japanese delegation said in a statement.

South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se said the country was pleased that the sites were recognized "in the form that takes account of our legitimate concerns."

"We have achieved our principle and position that historical truths must be reflected as they are," he said.

Japanese officials expressed their delight with the UNESCO listings, which include Gunkanjima, or "Battleship Island," a former coal mine on a fortress island off Japan's southwest coast.

ASIAN BRIEFS

World's oldest man dies in Japan at the age of 112

TOKYO (AP)—The world's oldest man, a retired educator from Japan, has died at the age of 112. An official from the city of Saitama said Tuesday that Sakari Momoi died from kidney failure Sunday at a nursing home in Tokyo. Momoi was born Feb. 5, 1903, in Fukushima prefecture, where he became a teacher. He later moved to Saitama, north of Tokyo, and served as a high school principal until retirement. Momoi was certified by Guinness World Records as the world's oldest man in August 2014, when he was 111. Another Japanese man, 112-year-old Yasutaro Koide of Nagoya, succeeds Momoi as the world's oldest man, according to the Los Angeles-based Gerontology Research Group. The world's oldest person is an American woman, 116-year-old Susannah Mushatt Jones of Brooklyn, New York.

Widow of ex-South Korean leader to visit North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The 92-year-old widow of late South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, who was a strong proponent of Korean reconciliation, will visit North Korea early next month, ex-aides to Kim said Monday. Lee Hee-ho's planned Aug. 5-8 trip comes amid continuing animosity between the rival Koreas following the recent opening of a U.N. office in Seoul tasked with monitoring what activists call the North's widespread abuse of its citizens' rights. Pyongyang, which calls any criticism of its rights record a U.S.-led attempt to topple its authoritarian government, has said the U.N. office is a provocation and warned that Seoul and Washington would face unspecified consequences. On Monday, however, North Korean officials and ex-aides to Kim agreed on Lee's trip while meeting at the North Korean border city of Kaesong, the president's former culture minister, Kim Sung-jae, told reporters.

Student activists in Thailand go before military court

BANGKOK (AP)—Fourteen detained student activists have been brought before a military court in a case that has attracted international calls for their release and criticism of the military junta's strict controls on freedom of speech and assembly. The university students were arrested June 26 on charges of sedition and violating the junta's ban on political gatherings for holding a peaceful anti-coup rally in Bangkok. Each student faces a maximum of seven years in prison. On Tuesday, a military court was to decide whether to extend their pre-trial detention for another 12 days. Journalists weren't allowed to enter the courtroom. Since overthrowing an elected government in May 2014, Thailand's military rulers have jailed opponents who dared to speak out against them. They've censored the media, dispersed protesters and forbidden open political debate.

World

Day of extremist violence across Nigeria kills more than 60

JOS, Nigeria (AP)—A day of extremist violence against both Muslims and Christians in Nigeria killed more than 60 people, including worshippers in a mosque who came to hear a cleric known for preaching about peaceful coexistence of all faiths.

Militants from Boko Haram were blamed for the bombings Sunday night at a crowded mosque and a posh Muslim restaurant in the central city of Jos; a suicide bombing earlier at an evangelical Christian church in the northeastern city of Potiskum, and attacks in several northeastern villages where dozens of churches and about 300 homes were torched.

In a failed attempt Monday night, a woman wired with explosives blew up near a mosque in Kano, Nigeria's second largest city, which has suffered many bomb blasts that killed hundreds in the past, according to police Assistant Superintendent Musa Magaji Majia. There were no other casualties besides the bomber.

In the latest outbreak of violence, Boko Haram extremists have killed about 300 people in the past week—apparently after an order by the self-proclaimed Islamic State group for more mayhem during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Earlier this year, Boko Haram became an affiliate of the Islamic State group which has proclaimed a caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria under its control.

AP

In this photo taken on a mobile phone, debris lays strewn over the area after a bomb exploded at a mosque in Jos, Nigeria, Monday, July 6, 2015.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

It is the worst violence since President Muhammadu Buhari was elected March 28 vowing to crush the 6-year-old Islamic uprising that has killed more than 13,000 people.

Buhari has condemned the recent attacks and said the government will defend Nigerians' right to worship freely.

The deadliest attack came last Wednesday when more than 140 people were killed—mostly men and boys mowed down by gunfire as they prayed in mosques in the northeastern town of Kukawa.

Burials were held Monday for 51 people killed by the two bombings a day earlier in Jos, said Muslim community lawyer Ahmed Garba.

Another 67 people were wounded, according to Abdussalam Mohammed, the National Emergency Management Agency coordinator.

The explosion at the Yantaya Mosque came as cleric Sani Yahaya was addressing the worshippers, survivors said. Yahaya is the national chairman of the Jama'atu Izalatul Bidia organization, which preaches that all religions should peacefully coexist.

Garba said gunmen also opened fire on the mosque from three directions.

Survivor Danladi Sani said he saw a man dressed in white take aim at Yahaya, and then blow himself up. Yahaya was unharmed, Sani added.

"He is a great Islamic scholar who has spoken out against Boko Haram, and that is why we believe he was the target," Sani told The Associated Press.

Another bomb exploded at Shagalinku, a restaurant often patronized by state governors and other top politicians for its specialties popular with Muslims, witnesses said.

Sabi'u Bako was picking up a takeout meal when he heard a massive explosion as he walked away with friends.

Iran now pushes for an end to arms embargo in nuclear deal

VIENNA (AP)—As negotiators braced for yet another possible extension of nuclear talks, Iran demanded on Monday that any deal should include the end to a U.N. arms embargo as well—a condition backed by Russia but opposed by the United States as it seeks to limit Tehran's Mideast influence.

Late last month, Iran and six world powers gave themselves an extra week past June 30 after it became clear that that original deadline could not be met. The sides now are trying to work out a deal that would limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the easing of tens of billions of dollars in economic penalties on the Islamic Republic.

But disagreements persisted as the sides moved close to the new Tuesday deadline, and White House spokesman Josh Earnest said another extension was "certainly possible."

Negotiators had previously mentioned the mechanics of curbing Iran's nuclear programs and the time and pacing of economic sanctions relief as the most contentious problems. But an Iranian official—briefing reporters on condition of anonymity—said Monday that ending the arms embargo was an important part of the deal.

The Iranian decision to publicly bring that issue into the mix suggested that disputes ran deeper than just over the most widely aired issues.

A preliminary nuclear deal reached in April did not specifically name the arms embargo on Iran as part of the long-term accord. But a U.S. fact-sheet issued at the time said that the deal now being worked on would result in "the comprehensive lifting of all U.N. Security Council sanctions" on the Islamic Republic, which could be interpreted to include the arms embargo.

Still, the U.S. also said at the time that "important restrictions on conventional arms and ballistic missiles" would be incorporated in any new U.N. guidelines for Iran.

Both Russia and China have expressed support for at least a partial lifting of the arms embargo. Moscow, in particular, is interested in military cooperation and in Russian arms sales to Tehran, including the long-delayed transfer of S-300 advanced air defense systems—something long opposed by Washington.

The U.S. doesn't want the arms ban ended because it fears Tehran could expand its military assistance for Syrian President Bashar Assad, for Houthi rebels in Yemen fighting a U.S. backed Arab coalition and for Lebanon-based Hezbollah, which opposes Israel. Lifting the embargo also would increase already strong opposition to the deal in Congress and in Israel.

With the arms embargo prohibiting both exports of weapons to Iran and exports by Iran—and Russia wanting to sell arms to Tehran—one possible solution would be lifting the ban only on importing weapons to the Islamic Republic and not on exports.

Iran also wants to have a hand in shaping any Security Council resolution that would endorse a comprehensive nuclear deal, if one is reached, the Iranian official said.

He offered no details but told reporters that Iran and Security Council members at the nuclear talks are drafting language for a proposed U.N. resolution and that Tehran is seeking a shift from the critical tone of previous resolutions on its nuclear program. All five Security Council members—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France—are at the table with Iran, along with Germany.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mali extremist traded for French hostage killed in attack

BAMAKO, Mali (AP)—French special forces have killed an Islamic extremist in northern Mali who had been released last year in exchange for the freedom of a French hostage, a Malian official said Monday. A special operation in the Tigharghar mountains of the Kidal region killed Mohamed Ali Ag Wadossene, said Malian forces spokesman Cmdr. Modibo Nama Traore. A dozen others were also arrested in the operation, he said. An official with the French special forces, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to speak to the press, confirmed the operation. Ag Wadossene, a member of al-Qaida's North Africa branch, was among those who kidnapped Philippe Verdon and Serge Lazarevic from their hotel in northeastern Mali in November 2011.

Zimbabwean government exports elephants despite protest

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Twenty elephants exported to China would be "better off" in Chinese zoos rather than struggling wildlife parks in Zimbabwe, the southern African nation's minister in charge of wildlife said on Monday, dismissing protests from animal rights groups. "Those elephants have gone to world class zoos. They will get much better care but, of course, the lobbyists are always keen to ignore facts," Minister of Environment Saviour Kasukuwere told The Associated Press. Zimbabwe's national parks are overpopulated and the Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority is struggling to raise money for conservation efforts, Kasukuwere said.

Mozambique destroys ivory, rhino horn in anti-poaching move

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Mozambique destroyed a large stockpile of confiscated ivory and rhino horn on Monday in an effort to curb severe poaching, the government said. The event shows "the commitment of the government that there's zero tolerance for poaching of our natural resources," Samiro Magane, a conservation official in Mozambique, said in a telephone interview. A total of 5,370 pounds (2.4 metric tons) of ivory and dozens of rhino horn pieces weighing a total of nearly 440 pounds (200 kilograms) were destroyed, said the Wildlife Conservation Society, a New York-based group that co-manages Niassa National Reserve in northern Mozambique.

Good Housekeeping

Diggin' In: Gardens that produce healthy kids in summer

By KATHY VAN MULLEKOM
DAILY PRESS

Kathy Van Mullekom is the garden/home columnist for the Daily Press in Newport News, Va.

MCT

Lisa Ziegler of The Gardener's Workshop relaxes in the Sunflower House with Babs, her 10-year-old golden retriever.

Summertime gardening is good for kids out of school and with time to spend outdoors.

"Gardening builds healthy bodies," says Heather Veneziano, Children's Garden horticulturist at the 80-acre Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Va.

"Children lift, dig and move from place to place, which builds muscles and increases fitness levels.

"They are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables that they've grown—and to become lifelong veggie lovers.

"Children who spend time outside are sick less often," she adds.

In addition, children working cooperatively in the garden build social skills such as listening, sharing ideas and taking turns, she notes. It also cultivates patience, builds confidence and teaches children to nurture and care for living things.

"Children also become young scientists and develop skills that help them in school and in life," she says.

"By tasting, smelling, touching, listening, and seeing the garden grow and change, they learn about the natural world in a way that is personal to them, which is a powerful teaching tool."

Here are some ways to get started:

■ Let kids pick a packet of seeds or plant to add to the garden, or give them a container of their very own, suggests Veneziano.

■ Work in small sections of the garden. Then look back together and see the accomplishments.

Following are some summer-fun projects that get kids outdoors, growing and having fun:

Sunflower House

Here's how to plant a Sunflower House, according to Lisa Ziegler of the The Gardener's Workshop in Newport News, Va., www.shoptgw.com .

Materials:

■ A 10-by-10-foot sunny spot with at least eight hours of sunlight

■ Enough cardboard or newspapers to cover the area

■ Organic mulch such as leaves, pine straw or chops to cover the area with six to eight inches

■ Two bags of compost

■ Mammoth sunflower, Teddy Bear sunflower, morning glory and moonflower vine seeds

■ Liquid organic fertilizer

■ Sturdy stakes and twine

■ Cooking flour

Directions:

First, clear away vegetation in a 10-by-10 planting area.

Use cooking flour to mark an 8-by-8-foot-square planting area within the 10-by-10-foot house, leaving a two-foot space for a doorway. Do not prepare or plant the doorway. The flour outline runs in the center of the 12-inch-wide planting band and is a guide to where the plants will be planted and where to prepare the soil.

Use a small shovel and steel rake to loosen and prep the 12-inch band of soil for planting, and incorporate bags of compost.

To block weed growth inside and outside the Sunflower House "walls," cover a 12-inch-wide outer perimeter band with cardboard or overlapping layers of wet newspapers and then mulch.

Then, cover an interior 7-by-7-foot square with cardboard and mulch. When done, you have a 12-inch-wide band of exposed soil for planting.

Install sturdy garden stakes to support the 10- to 12-foot-tall Mammoth sunflowers that are the framework of the house. Install one stake at each corner, both sides of the doorway and then every two feet along the outline.

Plant seeds or transplants according to seed packet instructions. Plant a Mammoth at each corner, both sides of the doorway and then every two feet along the outline. Plant Teddy Bear sunflowers between the Mammoth sunflowers.

Alternate planting a moonflower or morning glory seed a few inches from each Mammoth sunflower seed.

As the plants grow, use twine or panty hose to tie the Mammoth sunflowers to the stakes.

Encourage the vines to grow up the Mammoth sunflowers.

Once the Mammoth sunflowers develop blooms, use garden twine to tie from flower head to flower head, crisscrossing the house. The vines will ramble across the twine, creating a roof.

Water weekly. Use organic liquid fertilizer according to directions.

Note: The Sunflower House Seed Collection includes a detailed instruction booklet with a diagram and one packet of each type of seeds listed above, or four packs; $18.95 with automatic free shipping until July 20. To order, visit www.shoptgw.com or call 1-888-977-7159 or email info@shoptgw.com .

Night & Day Garden

Children in one of the Virginia Living Museum's pre-kindergarten camps are planting a "Night and Day Garden" with moonflower seeds and zinnia seeds, according to Betsy Wolin, education associate at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News, Va.

"They do this on the day they explore the differences between butterflies and moths," she says.

"Moonflowers attract moths, and zinnias attract butterflies."

For an edible experiment, Wolin suggests families can do a "three sisters planting" of corn, beans and squash, just like the Powhatan Indians did: the beans climb the corn, and the squash provides the ground cover for moisture.

Learn more about the living museum at www.thevlm.org .

Art Garden

Artists are constantly inspired by nature, according to gardeners at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Create a garden based on flowers and scenes from famous paintings and art.

Plants to use: Sunflowers, dahlias, iris, gladiolas, hibiscus and tiger lilies.

Things to do in the garden: Petal painting—rub petals of flowers such as violas and pansies on paper and the pigment comes off; you paint with the petals. It helps to roll them up a little bit, according to Lewis Ginter.

Books to read: "The Imaginary Garden" by Andrew Larson or "The Curious Garden" by Peter Brown.

Pollinator Garden

Pollinators of all types need our help, according to Lewis Ginter. Create a garden that feeds butterflies, bees and other pollinators.

Pollinator plants to use: Dill, bee balm, milkweed, asters, salvia and mountain mint.

Things to do in the garden: Be a busy bee; fly through your garden pretending that the fuzzy end of a Q-tip is the fuzzy body of a bee. Visit lots of different flowers, gently poking your bee body into the center of the flower. As you buzz along, check the end of the Q-tip for signs of yellow pollen. As the flowers get pollinated, seeds start to grow!

Or: Pretend to drink nectar through a proboscis with party blowers.

Books to read: "Butterfly Butterfly" by Petr Horacech or "Glasswings: A Butterfly's Story" by Elisa Kleven.

Living Smart: What landscaping can you get for $50, $500 or $5,000?

By STACI GIORDULLO
ANGIE'S LIST

Staci Giordullo is a reporter at www.angieslist.com, a trusted provider of local consumer reviews and an online marketplace of services from top-rated providers.

How much does landscaping cost? Top-rated companies explain how far your dollar stretches when it comes to enhancing your home's curb appeal.

As you survey your property, you might wonder what type of landscaping additions or upgrades fit your budget. Well, wonder no more.

Angie's List asked landscapers about the most popular projects they offer in various price ranges, so all you have to do is decide which one suits you best.

Keep in mind, though, always to verify a landscaping company's insurance and applicable licensing information. What they're selling may sound like a bargain, but you might end up with a raw deal if they're not following the rules.

What can I get for $50?

Admittedly, at this price range you might be looking at more DIY-type projects, such as buying and spreading your own bags of mulch. But there are a few tasks you can hire a pro to tackle.

Dan Eyre, owner of Dan's Landscape and Tree Service in Cypress, Calif., says $50 will cover the cost of programming a sprinkler's timer and an operational once-over.

Other options include a flat of seasonal spring flowers, such as begonias, planted and mulched by a landscaper.

Or one application of fly repellent for an average-sized lawn, according to Kronda Thimesch, co-owner of Green Meadows Landscaping in Lewisville, Tex.

"One application lasts four weeks, and it deters flies in the yard," Thimesch says.

What can I get for $500?

Scott McIntyre, owner of Landscape Solutions in Los Gatos, Calif.-, says he typically charges a minimum of $500 for irrigation troubleshooting, repair services or other miscellaneous landscaping work that takes around eight man hours.

"Our slogan is 'great landscaping designed to budget,' so we're familiar with the importance of good design and getting the most for your money," he says.

MCT

For $50, homeowners can get a bed of select flowers planted and mulched.

Thimesch says some of the services she offers in this price range include:

■ Nine applications of a fertilization and weed control program.

■ Lawn mowed, trimmed and edged weekly for four months, for the average half-acre lot.

■ A 3-D design of your landscape plan. "It takes the guesswork out of what the trees and plants will look like in your yard," she says.

What can I get for $5,000?

Mick Johnson, owner of Johnson Creek in St. Paul, Minn., says homeowners with this kind of budget can expect a wide variety of finished projects, including patios and retaining walls.

The type of patio or wall, materials and size all play into the final cost.

Another option is revamping a home's front foundation landscape, which involves removing most _ if not all _ of the debris and plants already in the beds. Then those beds are reshaped and given a new planting palette to complement the home, increasing its overall curb appeal.

"Each project we work on is as unique as the homeowner and their house," Johnson says. "So it's difficult to place a hard-and-fast cost on a custom landscape."

Eyre says this budget will get a homeowner a complete irrigation system in both the front and back yards, including a new timer, valves, heads and also the installation of 1,000 square feet of sod.

Other options our landscaping experts mentioned include:

■ Water features

■ Privacy and border plantings

■ Perennial gardens

■ Landscape lighting

■ Arbors and trellis work

Doug Engelhart, owner of Your Personal Gardener in Ostrander, Ohio, says a customer spending $50 should expect the same service as one spending $500 or $5,000.

"You should get the same commitment to showing up on time, the same quality of work whether done in one hour or a hundred, and the same level of honesty on the invoice or work order," he says. "Customers should insist on, no matter the price range, details on their invoices, including materials and quantities."

Life & Style

Cosby said he got drugs to give women for sex

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby admitted in 2005 that he secured quaaludes with the intent of giving them to young women he wanted to have sex with and that he gave the sedative to at least one woman and other people, according to documents obtained Monday by The Associated Press.

Cosby's lawyers insisted that two of the accusers knew they were taking quaaludes from the comedian, according to the unsealed documents.

Nevertheless, attorneys for some of the numerous women suing Cosby seized on the testimony as powerful corroboration of what they have been saying all along: that he drugged and raped women.

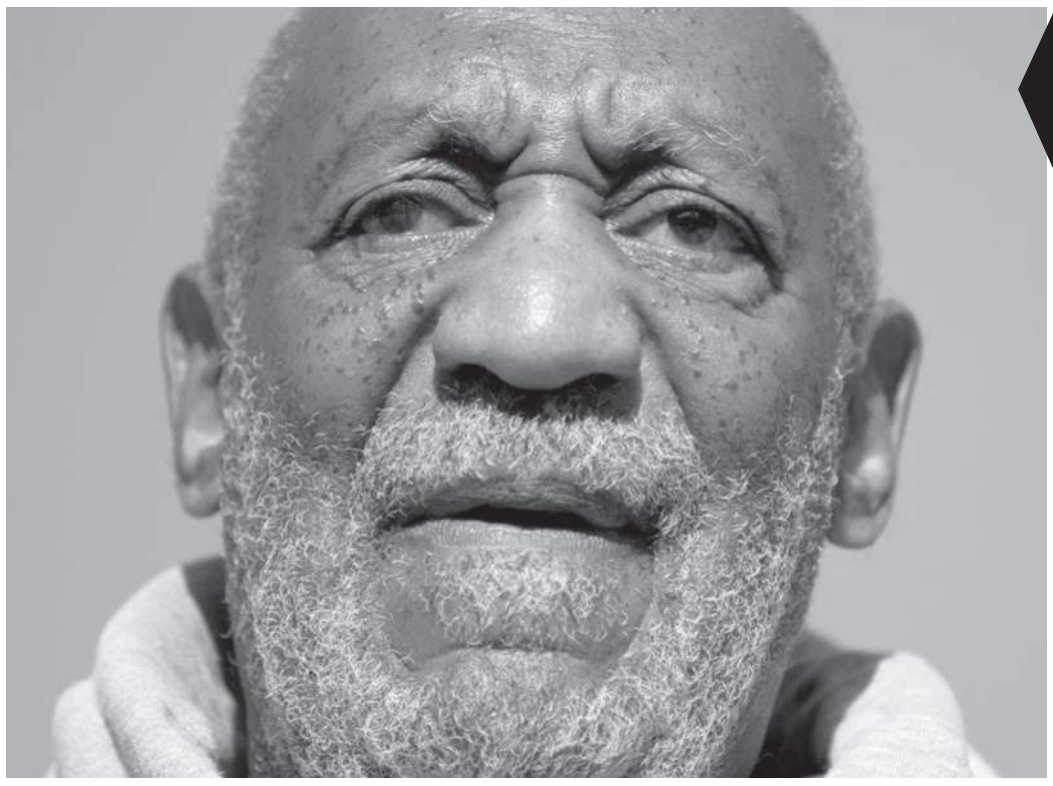
The AP had gone to court to compel the release of a deposition in a sexual-abuse case filed by former Temple University employee Andrea Constand, the first of a cascade of lawsuits against him that have severely damaged his good-guy image.

Cosby's lawyers had objected to the release of the material, arguing it would embarrass him. Ultimately, a judge unsealed just a small portion of the deposition.

"The stark contrast between Bill Cosby, the public moralist and Bill Cosby, the subject of serious allegations concerning improper (and perhaps criminal) conduct is a matter as to which the AP—and by extension the public—has a significant interest," U.S. District Judge Eduardo Robreno wrote.

Cosby, with his oft-espoused views on topics including childrearing, family life, education and crime, "has voluntarily narrowed the zone of privacy that he is entitled to claim," the judge wrote.

Cosby, who starred as Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" from 1984 to 1992, settled Constand's lawsuit under confidential terms in 2006. His lawyers in the Philadelphia case did not immediately return telephone calls seeking comment on Monday. Constand consented to be identified but did not want to comment, her lawyer said.



AP

n this Nov. 11, 2014, file photo, comedian and Navy veteran Bill Cosby speaks during a Veterans Day ceremony in Philadelphia.

"This evidence shows a pattern in which defendant `mentored' naive young women and introduced drugs into the relationship, with and without the woman's knowledge, in order for him to achieve sexual satisfaction," Constand's lawyer, Dolores M. Troiani, argued in court papers.

Cosby, 77, has been accused by more than two dozen women of sexual misconduct in episodes dating back more than four decades. Cosby has never been charged with a crime, and the statute of limitations on most of the accusations has expired.

"If today's report is true, Mr. Cosby admitted under oath 10 years ago sedating women for sexual purposes," said Lisa Bloom, attorney for model Janice Dickinson, who says she was drugged and raped. "Given that, how dare he publicly vilify Ms. Dickinson and accuse her of lying when she tells a very similar story?"

Celebrity attorney Gloria Allred, who is representing several women, said she hopes to use the admission in court cases against the comedian.

Cosby, giving sworn testimony in the lawsuit accusing him of sexual assaulting Constand at his home in Pennsylvania in 2004, said he obtained seven quaalude prescriptions in the 1970s. Constand's lawyer asked if he had kept the sedatives through the 1990s, after they were banned, but was frustrated by objections from Cosby's attorney.

"When you got the quaaludes, was it in your mind that you were going to use these quaaludes for young women that you wanted to have sex with?" Troiani asked.

"Yes," Cosby answered.

"Did you ever give any of these young women the quaaludes without their knowledge?" Troiani asked.

Cosby's lawyer again objected, leading Troiani to petition the federal judge to force Cosby to cooperate.

Cosby later said he gave Constand three half-pills of Benadryl, although Troiani in the documents voices doubt that was the drug involved.

Cosby had fought the AP's efforts to unseal the testimony, with his lawyer arguing that the deposition could reveal details of Cosby's marriage, sex life and prescription drug use.

"It would be terribly embarrassing for this material to come out," lawyer George M. Gowen III argued in June.

He also said the material would "prejudice him in eyes of the jury pool in Massachusetts," where Cosby is fighting defamation lawsuits brought by women who say his representatives smeared them by accusing them of lying.

'Inside Out' emerges atop 'Jurassic World' in final tally

AP

In this file image released by Disney-Pixar, characters, from left, Anger, voiced by Lewis Black, Disgust, voiced by Mindy Kaling, Joy, voiced by Amy Poehler, Fear, voiced by Bill Hader, and Sadness, voiced by Phyllis Smith appear in a scene from "Inside Out."

NEW YORK (AP)—Three weeks after opening, Pixar's "Inside Out" has finally slayed the dinosaurs of "Jurassic World."

In final box office figures released Monday, "Inside Out" came out slightly ahead of "Jurassic World" after estimates Sunday had "Jurassic World" narrowly edging "Inside Out" for the top spot.

The acclaimed Pixar original took in $29.8 million over the July 4 weekend for Disney, enough to barely surpass the hit Universal reboot "Jurassic World," which pulled in $29.2 million on its fourth weekend.

While those two releases continued to dominate the multiplexes, two new releases struggled to find moviegoers over the summer holiday.

Paramount's "Terminator Genisys," which cost $155 million to produce, fared worse than the previous four installments of the franchise. It made $27 million over the weekend and $42.5 million since it opened Wednesday.

"Magic Mike XXL," Warner Bros.' sequel to the 2012 Channing Tatum hit, was made for just $15 million. But it also didn't draw as expected, earning $27.9 million over five days of release.

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Monday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Rentrak:

1. **"Inside Out,"** Disney, $29,771,224, 4,158 locations, $7,160 average, $245,891,395, 3 weeks.
2. **"Jurassic World,"** Universal, $29,242,025, 3,737 locations, $7,825 average, $556,542,980, 4 weeks.
3. **"Terminator Genisys,"** Paramount, $27,018,486, 3,758 locations, $7,190 average, $42,474,183, 1 week.
4. **"Magic Mike XXL,"** Warner Bros., $12,857,184, 3,355 locations, $3,832 average, $27,890,003, 1 week.
5. **"Ted 2,"** Universal, $11,171,520, 3,448 locations, $3,240 average, $58,500,630, 2 weeks.
6. **"Max,"** Warner Bros., $6,617,389, 2,870 locations, $2,306 average, $25,378,166, 2 weeks.
7. **"Spy,"** 20th Century Fox, $5,137,677, 2,387 locations, $2,152 average, $97,536,300, 5 weeks.
8. **"San Andreas,"** Warner Bros., $2,824,063, 1,672 locations, $1,689 average, $147,190,443, 6 weeks.
9. **"Me And Earl And The Dying Girl,"** Fox Searchlight, $1,246,803, 870 locations, $1,433 average, $3,931,842, 4 weeks.
10. **"Dope,"** Open Road, $1,118,117, 863 locations, $1,296 average, $14,124,389, 3 weeks.
11. **"Mad Max: Fury Road,"** Warner Bros., $1,016,016, 561 locations, $1,811 average, $149,006,895, 8 weeks.
12. **"Avengers: Age Of Ultron,"** Disney, $886,151, 589 locations, $1,505 average, $454,231,429, 10 weeks.
13. **"Love & Mercy,"** Roadside Attractions, $742,048, 440 locations, $1,686 average, $10,529,863, 5 weeks.
14. **"Pitch Perfect 2,"** Universal, $567,500, 454 locations, $1,250 average, $182,346,060, 8 weeks.
15. **"Insidious Chapter 3,"** Focus Features, $558,121, 651 locations, $857 average, $51,232,716, 5 weeks.
16. **"I'll See You In My Dreams,"** Bleecker Street, $468,250, 240 locations, $1,951 average, $5,836,504, 8 weeks.
17. **"Faith Of Our Fathers,"** Pure Flix, $438,186, 344 locations, $1,274 average, $626,977, 1 week.
18. **"Tomorrowland,"** Disney, $383,037, 297 locations, $1,290 average, $91,040,567, 7 weeks.
19. **"The Overnight,"** The Orchard, $325,575, 307 locations, $1,061 average, $628,913, 3 weeks.
20. **"Home,"** 20th Century Fox, $290,760, 257 locations, $1,131 average, $175,366,853, 15 weeks.

'Can't Buy Me Love' actress Amanda Peterson dies at 43

GREELEY, Colo. (AP)—Amanda Peterson, best known for her role in the 1987 romantic comedy "Can't Buy Me Love," has died. She was 43.

Peterson

Sgt. Mike Moran with the Greeley, Colorado, police department says Peterson was found dead at an apartment complex Sunday. She was alone, and an investigation into her death is ongoing. No other information was released.

Peterson began her film career when she was 9 in the 1982 adaptation of the play "Annie," directed by John Huston.

The Greeley native appeared in numerous movies and TV shows over the next decade. Her biggest role was playing opposite Patrick Dempsey in "Can't Buy Me Love."

She played cheerleader Cindy Mancini, whom Dempsey's character paid to pose as his girlfriend.

Peterson appeared in her last film, "Windrunner," in 1994.

Bruce Jenner's 1984 Olympic Torch going on auction block

NEW YORK (AP)—The 1984 Summer Olympic Torch that Bruce Jenner carried through Lake Tahoe, Nevada, is going on the auction block where it could fetch $20,000 or more.

It's the first major piece of Jenner memorabilia to go to auction since the winner of the 1976 Olympic Decathlon Gold Medal became Caitlyn Jenner.

The 24-inch torch, featuring a brass finish and leather handle, is being offered by Heritage Auctions at its Platinum Night Sports Auction in Chicago on July 30. The seller is Bob Lorsch, a Los Angeles philanthropist and entrepreneur who orchestrated the Tahoe leg of the torch relay and secured Jenner's participation.

"This torch serves as a wonderful symbol that masculinity and femininity are not mutually exclusive," said Chris Ivy, Heritage's director of sports auctions. "The decathlon has long been considered the ultimate athletic proving ground. Jenner has played both gender roles masterfully." Jenner was approached to carry the torch as part of the Los Angles Summer Olympic Games to help support Caesars Tahoe's agenda of giving back to the local community and promoting area youth programs, said Lorsch. The hotel casino held a drawing for a chance to win a place in the relay and sponsored 50 kilometers or about 31 miles of the Nevada route. Seven went to individuals and 42 to local organizations. Jenner was asked to run the remaining kilometer or 1,000 meters.

"Caesars saw it as a tremendous opportunity ... to do something more special, never realizing that we would be creating what is truly a piece of history that originated as a piece of sports history, then evolved as a piece of entertainment history through the Kardashian legacy and becoming a cultural phenomenon through the transition to Caitlyn," said Lorsch.

"Other than trinkets and signed memorabilia, this is the first piece of what I would consider significant Jenner memorabilia to reach the auction block," said Ivy.

Better known to a younger generation as the patriarch on "Keeping up With the Kardashians," Jenner, 65, announced earlier this year that he was transitioning to become a woman. Vanity Fair ran glamour photos of him as Caitlyn.

A spokesman for Jenner didn't respond to a request for comment.

AP

In this undated photo provided by Heritage Auctions, the 1984 Summer Olympics Torch that Bruce Jenner carried through Lake Tahoe, Nevada is shown.

Caitlyn Jenner to write weekly editorials on LGBT issues

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Caitlyn Jenner will be writing weekly online editorials about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and issues.

Jenner's spokesman, Alan Nierob, said Monday that the editorials on the celebrity content website WhoSay are part of Jenner's effort to explore matters of concern to the LGBT community.

Nierob declined to comment on other aspects of the effort, saying it's too early to discuss them.

This month, the former Bruce Jenner will be featured in an eight-episode series depicting her transition to a new life as a woman. The series, titled "I Am Cait," debuts July 26 on the E! Entertainment channel.

The Olympic champion has been part of the E! reality series "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," about the extended family that includes Jenner's ex-wife, Kris Jenner, and stepdaughter Kim Kardashian.

AP

This 2015 image provided by courtesy of E! shows Caitlyn Jenner in the first official promotional trailer for the new documentary series, "I Am Cait," in Southern California.

Dead shows set attendance records at Chicago's Soldier Field

CHICAGO (AP)—The Grateful Dead is making Chicago's Soldier Field come alive like no rock band ever has.

In a news release, Soldier Field says the 70,764 tickets sold for Friday night's show broke a previous record for any event at the stadium when U2 sold 67,936 for a 2009 show.

That record lasted all of one day. On Saturday night, Soldier Field reported that 70,844 tickets were sold for the show. The band has one more show Sunday of what they say will be their last show ever as the Grateful Dead.

Soldier Field spokesman Luca Serra says the fans are getting their money's worth. Both shows started at about 7:30 at night and Friday night's show ended at 11:35 and Saturday night's show ended at midnight.

Al Jazeera YouTube channel airs satirical video about US

AP

In this July 4, 2015 file photo, fireworks explode behind a United States flag during a Fourth of July celebration at State Fair Meadowlands in East Rutherford, N.J.

NEW YORK (AP)—A video posted on an Al Jazeera YouTube channel over the Fourth of July weekend mocks Americans for dubious "achievements" in obesity, pornography production and gun ownership.

The satirical item, under two minutes long, was produced out of San Francisco by a digital arm of the Qatar-based Al Jazeera news network. It has not been seen on television, including on the beleaguered Al Jazeera America channel.

Debuting on the weekend set aside for celebrating the birth of the U.S., the video is entitled "Americans Show Why USA is the (hash)1 Country in the World." It begins with a man who explains that most people probably know that Americans lead the world in Olympic medals won, Nobel laureates and billionaires.

Then it goes on to list other benchmarks, including the large number of people imprisoned and the amount of guns owned. The U.S. also has a leading percentage of obese people, one man said.

"A third of us can't even see our own toes," he said.

A man holding red, white and blue balloons claims that Americans make 89 percent of the world's pornography. "That makes porn as American as church on Sunday," the man said.

At its end, a man in a stars-and-stripes hat said that "if anybody ever tells you that American is not that great, just say, `God bless the country with the most deaths by lawnmowers.'" A guitar plays "America the Beautiful" in the background.

The Al Jazeera Plus network began in 2013, and is described on its website as a "global news community for the connected generation." The outfit says that its goal is to "highlight human struggles and achievements, empower impassioned voices and challenge the status quo."

Woman who is HIV-positive is hiding her status from men

DEAR ABBY: I moved away from my hometown 18 years ago. At the time, a friend of mine had found out she was HIV-positive. Thankfully, healthwise she's doing well. To look at her you would never know.

We have reconnected, but I have recently learned that she had several relationships in the past and didn't reveal that she was HIV-positive or use protection. She says she "loves" these men, their families and their children. It makes me sick that she's killing them.

Someone called her doctor and he talked to her about it, but she lied and said that she had told them. These men have no idea! What can be done so she quits spreading this disease?

SHE'S KILLING THEM IN INDIANA

DEAR S.K.T.: I ran your letter by an old and trusted friend, Dr. Mervyn Silverman, former director of health in San Francisco. He asked me to reassure you that if your friend has been under treatment for HIV, her chances of passing it on are far less than they were years ago. He also mentioned that if these men's wives had contracted HIV from their husbands and become pregnant, that their disease would very likely have been discovered.

You need to talk to your friend and explain that this is both a halth issue and one of morality. If she's continuing to have unprotected sex with her partners, there is still some potential risk that she could pass along the virus. So if she truly loves anyone but herself, she will get with the program and be honest about her health status.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single mother of two wonderful daughters. I have a fantastic boyfriend, "Roy," who I met when I was pregnant with my second. We have been together for six months and I love him very much.

Unfortunately, he has become mildly controlling and critical. Roy has no children of his own, and he doesn't seem to realize what goes into working, raising children and running a household. Recently, he gave me a promise ring, which I accepted. He's great with the girls and he makes me happy.

My father, however, says that the controlling behavior will only get worse down the road. I think it's because Roy was laid off from work and is having a hard time finding a job. I'm sure once he's working he'll be less focused on me. Who's right, me or my father?

MOM OF TWO IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR MOM OF TWO: When a couple has been together for only six months, they are usually still in what is referred to as the "honeymoon phase." Has Roy been jobless since you met him? If the layoff is recent, then his change in behavior may be related to his frustration at not being able to find another job.

However, your father not only has a point, he also has more experience than you do. Pay attention to what he's telling you. If Roy becomes increasingly controlling and critical, you'll know your father was right, and you should return that promise ring. So take your time and please don't rush!

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I have been a divorcee for 12 years. I haven't dated in more than a decade. I know a man who was widowed a couple of months ago. His wife died in her sleep. I have always been interested in him. When would it be appropriate to approach him?

INTERESTED IN CHICAGO

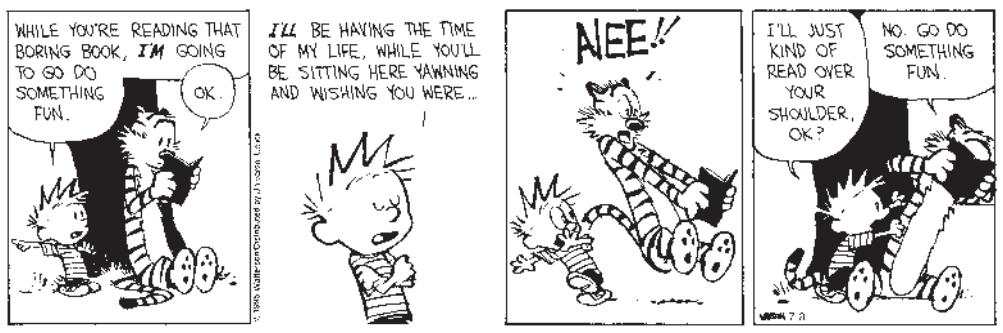
DEAR INTERESTED: If I were you, I'd get in line NOW.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

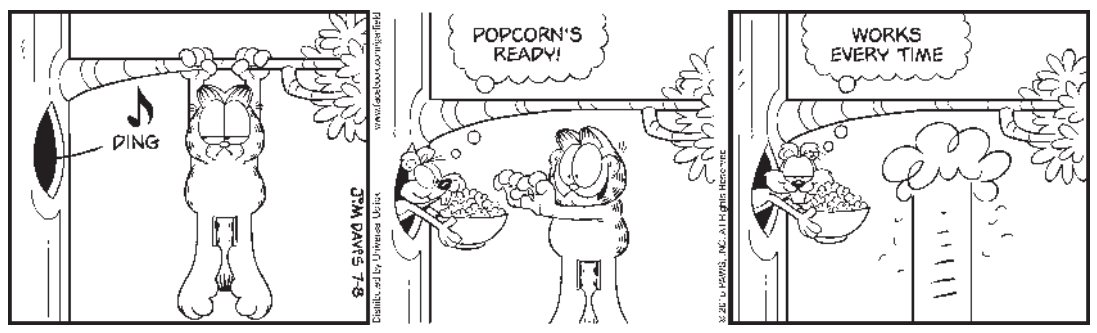
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WHILE YOU'RE READING THAT BORING BOOK, I'M GOING TO GO DO SOMETHING FUN.
OK.
I'LL BE HAVING THE TIME OF MY LIFE, WHILE YOU'LL BE SITTING HERE YAWNING AND WISHING YOU WERE...
AIEE!
I'LL JUST KIND OF READ OVER YOUR SHOULDER, OK?
NO. GO DO SOMETHING FUN.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM, YOU'RE FINE.
I'M SORRY IF I MADE YOU FEEL WEIRD ABOUT SETTING YOUR WHOLE OFFICE UP IN HERE.
YOU'RE A FANTASTIC CUSTOMER. YOU DO WHAT YOU NEED TO GET WORK DONE IN HERE.
I MEAN... I TRIED TO MAKE IT HOMEY.
YEAH. I WILL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO TAKE THE PERSONAL PHOTOS OFF THE WALL.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

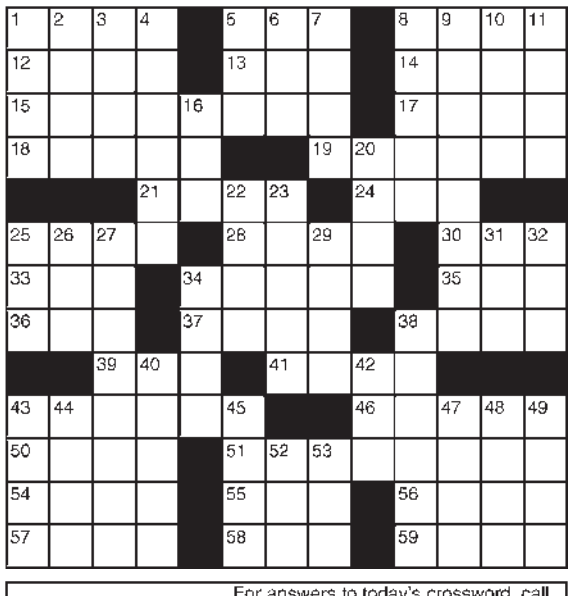
ACROSS
1 Otherwise
5 Sushi offering
8 Rue the run
12 First slayer
13 Pint in a pub
14 Crucifix
15 Looker
17 North Sea feeder
18 Actor Davis
19 Connective tissue
21 Dalai —
24 Ungraceful one
25 Doily feature
28 It takes the cake
30 Corn spike
33 Past
34 Rorschach images
35 Historic time
36 Solidify
37 Valhalla VIP
38 Mulligan, for one
39 "CSI" find
41 Moist
43 Secret Service agent, often
46 Run off to marry
50 Therefore
51 Trouble
54 Doves' home
55 Big bother
56 Men-only
57 Pianist Dame Myra
58 Infinitesimal
59 "Bonanza" role

DOWN
1 Reverberate
2 Cambodia neighbor
3 Perches
4 Store fodder
5 Water (Fr.)
6 2003 Will Ferrell movie
7 Took off
8 Where the action is
9 Strong apprehension
10 Bum
11 Paradise
16 Afternoon social
20 A really long time
22 Jell-O creation
23 Duck
25 Trail behind
26 Time of your life?
27 Deli assortment
29 Sicilian spouter
31 "You — There"
32 Uncivilized
34 Wild porker
38 1984 Tom Hanks movie
40 Facial features
42 Kitten's call
43 Leave a good impression?
44 Old woman's home?
45 Spring occurrence
47 Sgt. Snorkel's dog
48 Carrots' partners
49 Work units
52 Praise in verse
53 Pirouette pivot

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	L	M	■	O	F	F	■	R	O	M	P
I	D	E	A	■	L	E	I	■	E	R	I	E
G	O	O	D	N	E	W	S	■	F	A	C	E
■	■	■	M	U	G	■	H	A	U	■	E	R
P	E	C	A	N	■	I	H	I	N	■	■	■
H	U	I	N	■	G	O	O	D	D	E	A	L
I	R	A	■	A	E	R	O	S	■	R	H	O
G	O	O	D	B	O	O	K	■	A	G	E	D
■	■	■	F	F	I	S	■	G	N	O	M	F
E	S	C	U	D	O	■	H	A	G	■	■	■
T	A	L	C	■	G	O	O	D	L	U	C	K
A	L	O	E	■	I	R	E	■	E	T	U	I
L	E	G	S	■	C	E	S	■	R	E	E	D

Yesterday's answer 7-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Toby Keith, 54; Kevin Bacon, 57; Anjelica Huston, 64; Jeffrey Tambor, 71.

Happy Birthday: Helping others will help you advance. Don't fight the inevitable. Going with the flow will help you avoid being left out. Use your ingenuity and be a participant. If you don't make suggestions or offer assistance, you will have no right to complain. Discipline and hard work will be required, but will also pay off. Your numbers are 9, 13, 17, 20, 23, 35, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Use your intelligence to make your way to the top. Beef up and send out your resume if you are bored or feel you are going nowhere fast. A physical change will boost your confidence and lift your spirits. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take a tour around your neighborhood, and you'll notice things you haven't seen before. There is plenty to discover, and with a little coaxing, you may want to participate in something that will improve your community. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Your involvement in a worthy cause will lead to new friendships. Take a position of leadership and make suggestions, and you will become a valued contributor. Do your own research. Positive personal changes will improve a relationship. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't take on too much, or emotions will escalate, causing disputes or minor mishaps. Take time out for yourself. Do something you enjoy or that stimulates you mentally and physically. Personal changes will make you feel good. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get motivated and make things happen. Act on your instincts and don't look back. You'll attract attention and plenty of interest in what you have to offer personally and professionally. Promote your interests, and you will get an offer you cannot refuse. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Stand firm if someone makes demands, but don't get into a dispute. Be prepared to walk away. You will lose if you don't negotiate with finesse. Believe in your ability to move forward on your own if necessary. Protect your interests. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll have trouble getting along with business partners. Compromise and keep the peace. Focus more on being helpful and taking care of personal needs that ease your stress and make you feel good about the way you look. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a close look at any contracts, investments or paperwork you are given. Someone will try to take advantage of you if you aren't careful. Make changes to whatever proposition you are given. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Expand your interests and your friendships. Exploring new people and places will change your attitude and improve your goals. Set your standards high, and you will rise to the occasion. Walk away from negativity or people looking for an argument. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone will play on your emotions by making a last-minute change. Before you jump to conclusions or believe what you hear, dig deep and look for alternatives that will help you continue along your set path. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Reconsider your direction and the partnerships you have formed. Limitations and frustrations will occur if you let someone make decisions for you. A professional change based on something you enjoy doing will bring you higher returns and greater satisfaction. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Getting along with your peers will make the difference in how successful you can be. Don't rule out the possibility that you are being judged not only on your skills and ability, but also on your presentation and appearance. Leave nothing to chance. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unpredictable, willful and courageous. You are progressive and responsive. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				4				
	6		7		1			
	5	3				6		
	3						9	
8								1
6	4					5	3	2
	9		3	1			6	
	7		4	8			5	
	1	4	2	6	5	9	7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	8	5	3	4	1	7	2	9
9	7	4	8	6	2	5	1	3
3	2	1	9	5	7	4	6	8
8	4	3	7	2	5	6	9	1
5	1	9	6	8	3	2	7	4
7	6	2	4	1	9	3	8	5
4	9	8	5	7	6	1	3	2
2	3	7	1	9	4	8	5	6
1	5	6	2	3	8	9	4	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STRAWBERRY PICKING **Solution: 4 letters**

E	B	N	T	Y	S	H	S	R	E	N	N	U	R	O
I	L	E	U	R	C	D	L	I	W	O	R	G	T	D
H	O	B	V	T	E	I	E	Y	H	T	L	A	E	H
T	S	S	A	E	R	S	U	B	R	B	L	K	C	D
O	S	P	S	H	R	I	S	J	S	E	A	S	O	N
O	O	R	J	R	S	A	T	E	G	R	W	O	O	D
M	M	A	(P)	S	I	I	G	I	D	R	F	O	L	N
S	S	W	(A)	L	G	P	R	E	O	Y	L	T	L	I
D	E	L	(I)	C	A	T	E	E	A	U	E	E	O	F
Y	A	I	(L)	S	R	N	S	N	P	K	S	N	C	S
D	O	N	L	O	D	T	T	I	S	N	H	D	A	U
E	S	G	S	U	E	U	C	A	A	W	M	E	L	N
I	P	E	U	M	N	K	B	C	P	I	E	R	S	D
R	A	F	A	R	M	C	K	F	R	O	Z	E	N	A
D	C	R	O	P	T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E

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Basket, Beds, Berry, Beverage, Blossoms, Buds, Caps, Chocolate, Cool, Crop, Delicate, Dessert, Dried, Farm, Find, Flesh, Flower, Food, Frozen, Garden, Gelato, Grow, Healthy, Juicy, Local, Lunch, Nutritious, Pail, Patch, Perishable, Pick, Pie, Plant, Raked, Ripen, Rose, Runners, Salad, Season, Seeds, Smoothie, Snack, Sprawling, Stem, Sundae, Sweet, Tender, Wild, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Top Ten List

Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 or 21 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

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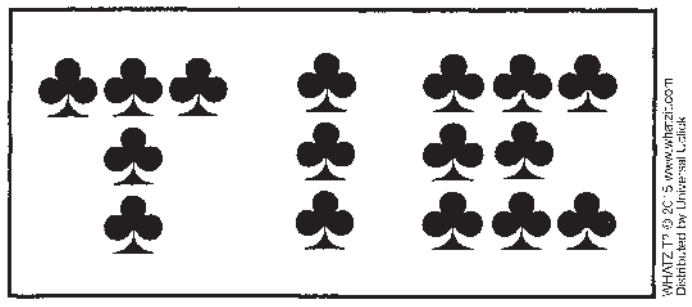

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Serena sweeps Venus at Wimbledon

Serena Williams of the United States makes a return to Venus Williams of the United States during their singles match against at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Monday July 6, 2015.

LONDON (AP)—Decades ago, when the Williams sisters were kids in California, taking tennis lessons from Dad on a municipal court and imagining playing at Grand Slam tournaments one day, it was Venus—older, taller, stronger—who usually beat Serena.

Never a fan of losing to her sibling—who would be? —Serena cheated a tad every so often, lying about whether Venus' shots landed in or out.

"That's the past," Serena jokes now with an eye roll. "I was young."

As professionals, on the sport's biggest stages, Serena has been better, especially lately. On Monday at Centre Court, in the 26th all-Williams contest on tour but first at a major in six years, No. 1-seeded Serena played solidly enough to beat No. 16 Venus 6-4, 6-3 and reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals, closing in on the third leg of a calendar-year Grand Slam.

This matchup between five-time champions at the All England Club was one-sided, done in 68 minutes. It's Serena's sixth win in the past seven matches against Venus, part of a 15-11 edge overall. When it ended, Serena walked calmly, quietly—none of her customary "Come on!" exuberance—to envelop Venus in a long hug.

On Serena's mind, it turns out, was this question: How many installments are left in this one-of-a-kind sibling rivalry?

"I just thought, `Wow, I'm 33, and she just turned 35. I don't know how many more moments like this we'll have.' I plan on playing for years, but you never know if we'll have the opportunity to face each other," Serena said after they walked off court with matching red racket bags.

"I just took the moment in, and I thought, `We're at Wimbledon.' I remember when I was 8 years old, we dreamed of this moment, and it was kind of surreal."

Venus' take on the likelihood of future meetings?

"When that moment is over, it will be over," she said, shrugging her shoulders. "It's not now."

Serena, 36-1 this season, has won 25 Grand Slam matches in a row. Get past former No. 1 Victoria Azarenka on Tuesday, then win twice more, and she would complete a self-styled "Serena Slam" of four consecutive major championships, something she also did in 2002-03.

Looking further ahead, Serena could go to the U.S. Open with a chance at the first true Grand Slam— four majors in a single season - since Steffi Graf in 1988.

When a reporter made a passing reference to that, Serena rested her chin on her left hand and declared: "I no longer answer questions about Grand Slams."

Other matches Tuesday: Maria Sharapova vs. CoCo Vandeweghe, Agnieszka Radwanska vs. Madison Keys, Timea Bacsinszky vs. Garbine Muguruza. Serena, Keys and Vandeweghe give the United States three Wimbledon women's quarterfinalists for the first time since 2004.

Three of Wednesday's men's quarterfinals are set: Roger Federer against Gilles Simon, Andy Murray against Vasek Pospisil, and Stan Wawrinka against Richard Gasquet. Defending champion Novak Djokovic dropped the first two sets, then won the next two, before his fourth-round match against Kevin Anderson was suspended because of darkness. They'll play the fifth set Tuesday; the winner faces Marin Cilic.

Until Monday, Venus hadn't dropped a set, but Serena won Monday's first eight points and wound up with 36 winners and 13 unforced errors.

"Very focused from the start. Very aggressive," said Serena's coach, Patrick Mouratoglou. "No matter who is on the other side of the court, that's Serena's job - to win. For Venus, also. But it's not something easy or pleasant against each other."

The Williams' parents and other siblings weren't in the guest box, where rapper Drake sat next to Serena's agent, and singer John Legend and his wife, TV host Chrissy Teigen, sat behind Mouratoglou.

It took until the 15th point for Venus to register a winner. That's also how long it took for a spectator to draw guffaws by shouting, "Come on, Williams!"

"When we're off the court, she's Serena, my sister," Venus said. "When we're on the court, she's Serena, my opponent."

An opponent who, unlike most others, pounds serves at 121 mph, as she did Monday, and returns the 115 mph serves Venus hits.

Other foes, of course, didn't grow up in the same home, didn't learn the game from the same instructors, didn't travel the world for years practicing with - and playing doubles alongside - each other.

"Boy, she has a game to just knock anyone's socks off," Serena said about Venus. "So you just have to be ready."

Serena usually is.

McIlroy ruptures ligament in ankle while playing soccer

LONDON (AP)—Rory McIlroy was on crutches Monday with an ankle injury from playing soccer, leaving in doubt the prospects of golf's No. 1 player defending his British Open title next week at St. Andrews.

Just as excitement was building toward a potential clash at the Old Course between McIlroy and Jordan Spieth, McIlroy posted a jarring photo on Instagram showing him on crutches with a walking boot on this left ankle. The 26-year-old from Northern Ireland said it was a "total rupture" of an ankle ligament and the joint capsule that happened while he was playing soccer with friends.

Sean O'Flaherty, his chief spokesman, said McIlroy has withdrawn from the Scottish Open this week at Gullane. O'Flaherty said they would not know until later in the week the extent of the injury and whether McIlroy would be able to tee it up July 16 at St. Andrews.

Ben Hogan in 1954 was the last British Open champion who did not play the following year.

McIlroy had been the joint favorite along with Spieth. They have won the last four majors - the first time in nearly a century that two players in their 20s have shared four successive majors—and Spieth is headed to St. Andrews as only the fourth player with a chance at the Grand Slam.

Players were shocked to hear the news.

"Unlucky, obviously," Luke Donald said in a telephone interview. "I would never say, `Don't play football or don't do these thing.' You don't want to live in a bubble. It's just unlucky timing, especially this time of the year. Golf is exciting with Rory and Jordan. It's added a bit of spice to the game. It's a shame if Rory were to miss the Open, which it looks like he might."

Sergio Garcia, a runner-up to McIlroy at Royal Liverpool last year, tweeted, "So sad to hear about (at)Rory McIlroy injury on his ankle. We will all miss you (at)TheOpen next week my friend. Fast and healthy recovery."

McIlroy referred to his ATFL, which is the anterior talofibular ligament and the one most commonly sprained. The left ankle is crucial in a golf swing as weight transfers to that side of the body (for right-handers) in generating power.

"That's a big blow to the Open if he misses it," former Ryder Cup captain Sam Torrance said from Wimbledon.

Big moves made, but dealing isn't done in NBA free agency

NEW YORK (AP)—LeBron James is available. Marc Gasol, too.

That's two All-NBA first team members from last season still on the market, in case anybody thinks all the best players are gone.

Of course, nobody really believes either is leaving his current club, so teams will have to look at lesser names as they continue filling out their rosters in free agency.

LaMarcus Aldridge came off the board Saturday when he committed to San Antonio, highlighting the holiday weekend fireworks. DeAndre Jordan had already decided on Dallas, placing two of this year's biggest prizes deep in the heart of Texas.

The dizzying days after the market opened last Wednesday morning were so busy that it feels there can't be many good options left, even though contracts can't even be signed until Thursday.

It's different than last season, when James, Carmelo Anthony and Chris Bosh, the marquee names available, took more than 10 days to make their decisions.

Action has moved more quickly this year, starting with Anthony Davis' extension in New Orleans that was agreed to just minutes after the market opened. But the dealing isn't done, and how teams fare in the coming days could pay off in June.

For as well as Cleveland did last summer when it signed James and later traded for Kevin Love, the Cavaliers still had holes in their roster that left them too short-handed in the NBA Finals after injuries set in. So they, like every team, are hoping to load up on low-priced depth.

Here are some other things to watch:

GO WEST: David West is still looking for a team after bypassing the $12.6 million he would have earned next season in Indiana, and his low-post scoring and locker-room leadership should be appealing to contenders.

RESTRICTED REWARDS: Former top-five picks Tristan Thompson (Cleveland) and Enes Kanter (Oklahoma City) are still available and played well over the latter half of last season. But as restricted free agents their clubs could match any offer, and probably would.

THE (J) SMITHS: After arriving during the season, Josh Smith (Houston) and J.R. Smith (Cleveland) played big roles on teams that made deep playoff runs. But there's just enough bad to go with the good stuff they do that it probably shouldn't be surprising that neither is signed yet.

DELLY, LINSANITY, AND OTHER WAYS TO GET THE POINT: Teams looking for help at point guard can consider fan favorites Jeremy Lin and Matthew Dellavedova - though the Cavs can match an offer for him - along with veterans such as Mo Williams and Aaron Brooks.

OL' RELIABLES? Amare Stoudemire and Carlos Boozer can still put up good numbers even late in their careers, making them potential affordable options for teams looking for scoring forwards. Other veterans who might have something left include Drew Gooden, Tayshaun Prince and Andre Miller.

ARGENTINA, ARGENTINA: The Spurs are still awaiting word on whether Manu Ginobili will return for one more season. His Argentina national team teammate, Luis Scola, also is unsigned and could follow West out of Indiana.

HEY, THEY WERE GREAT IN COLLEGE: Jimmer Fredette and Tyler Hansbrough, who haven't found the success in the NBA that made them players of the year in college, are both hoping for another shot somewhere.

Rollins rallies Dodgers past his old team

AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Jimmy Rollins, left, celebrates with Justin Turner after scoring on a hit by Howie Kendrick during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies in Los Angeles, Monday, July 6, 2015.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jimmy Rollins hit a go-ahead single in the seventh inning against his former team, rallying NL West-leading Los Angeles past last-place Philadelphia, 10-7.

With one out, Jeanmar Gomez gave up consecutive singles to Yasiel Puig and Andre Ethier, who moved up on pinch-hitter Alberto Callaspo's groundout to the pitcher. Rollins followed with a two-run single to left-center, and Cody Asche's throw home pulled catcher Carlos Ruiz away from the plate. He stretched in an effort to tag Ethier, but lost the ball in the process.

Rollins came home on a double by All-Star rookie Joc Pederson, giving the Dodgers a 10-7 lead in a game that lasted 4 hours, 13 minutes.

White Sox 4, Blue Jays 2

In Chicago, Chris Sale's bid for a record strikeout streak ended, but he pitched a six-hitter to help the Chicago White Sox to a 4-2 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Monday night in the fastest major league game in almost four years.

Sale (7-4) had struck out at least 10 batters in eight straight starts, matching the major league mark set by Pedro Martinez in 1999. The All-Star left-hander finished with six strikeouts while outpitching former mentor Mark Buehrle (9-5), who also went the distance.

There were no walks in a game that took only 1 hour, 54 minutes. It was the speediest big league game since Tampa Bay and Kansas City took 1:53 on Aug. 9, 2011, STATS said.

All of Chicago's runs were unearned. An error by shortstop Jose Reyes leading off the eighth helped the White Sox score three times and overcome a 2-1 deficit.

Josh Donaldson and Chris Colabello homered for Toronto.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 0

In Chicago, John Lackey threw seven scoreless innings and St. Louis beat Chicago despite Jon Lester taking a no-hitter into the seventh.

Signed to a six-year, $155 million deal over the offseason, Lester (4-7) remained winless in nine straight starts since beating Pittsburgh on May 16. He allowed two hits and two unearned runs while striking out eight for Chicago.

Lester's bid for his second career no-hitter ended with one out in the seventh when Kris Bryant couldn't handle Jhonny Peralta's sharp grounder in back of third base.

The Chicago defense then let Lester down when Bryant's throw to second on a Jason Heyward grounder went into right field. That was followed by Yadier Molina's run-scoring sacrifice fly to right, and Kolten Wong's RBI single to left that put St. Louis ahead 2-0.

Braves 5, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Kelly Johnson homered and drove in three runs as Atlanta ended Milwaukee's eight-game winning streak.

The game was held up in the ninth inning while an injured fan received medical attention after getting hit by a line drive.

A.J. Pierzynski had four hits, including two doubles, and rookie pitcher Matt Wisler won for the third time in four career starts.

Johnson launched a two-run homer to right field in the first off Kyle Lohse. Milwaukee avoided further damage when Juan Uribe was caught in a rundown after attempting to score on a grounder to third later in the inning.

Gerardo Parra hit a leadoff homer for the Brewers in the bottom half, his third this season.

Mets 3, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Jonathon Niese pitched eight sharp innings for his first win in nearly two months, and New York beat San Francisco to hand the World Series champions their seventh straight defeat.

Johnny Monell snapped a scoreless tie with a two-run double in the ninth against his former team. Michael Cuddyer had two hits, including a single that started the winning rally, to help the Mets improve to 3-1 on a six-game West Coast trip.

It was New York's second consecutive shutout, including an 8-0 victory Sunday at Dodger Stadium behind rookie Steven Matz.

Juan Lagares added an RBI single to make it 3-0, and Jeurys Familia closed for his 23rd save. Mets pitchers have allowed exactly three hits in each of their last three wins.

Tigers 12, Mariners 5

In Seattle, Nick Castellanos hit a home run and drove in four runs to lead a 19-hit outburst from Detroit in a win over Seattle.

Castellanos had a season-high four hits and matched a season best with four RBI. Victor Martinez added four hits, while J.D. Martinez had three hits and two RBI.

Mayckol Guaipe (0-1) took the loss after allowing three runs on two hits and a walk without getting an out in relief.

Alfredo Simon (8-5) gave up five runs on eight hits in 5 2/3 innings to earn the win.

Mariners starter Hisashi Iwakuma allowed five runs on eight hits in five-plus innings. He struck out three in his return from a strain in his back and right shoulder area that sent him to the disabled list in April.

Twins 4, Orioles 2, 10 innings

In Minneapolis, Brian Dozier hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning to lift Minnesota to the victory.

Dozier lined a 2-1 pitch from Tommy Hunter (2-2) into the seats in left for his 17th homer. Earlier in the day, Dozier was selected as one of the five candidates for the final roster spot on the AL All-Star team.

Trevor May (5-7) pitched a scoreless 10th inning to earn the win in his first relief appearance of the season.

Torii Hunter and Aaron Hicks also homered for Minnesota. Manny Machado and Adam Jones went deep for Baltimore.

Astros 9, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Dallas Keuchel pitched six innings on the same day he was selected for the AL All-Star team, leading Houston to the road win.

Keuchel (11-3), who leads the league in wins and is second with a 2.14 ERA, is a strong candidate to start next Tuesday's game in Cincinnati. The left-hander allowed three runs and nine hits.

An anticipated pitching duel between Keuchel and Carlos Carrasco never materialized. Carrasco (10-7), who came within one out of a no-hitter against Tampa Bay on Wednesday, allowed five runs in four innings.

Preston Tucker had a career-high four hits for Houston, including a solo homer in the fourth. Jose Altuve, Houston's All-Star second baseman, matched his career-high 14-game hitting streak with two hits.

Pirates 2, Padres 1

In Pittsburgh, Pedro Alvarez singled home the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning, sending Pittsburgh to its eighth win in 10 games.

Alvarez's second career game-ending hit also beat his father-in-law, Padres interim manager Pat Murphy.

Andrew McCutchen started the winning rally with a one-out walk off Brandon Maurer (5-2).

Reds 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, Eugenio Suarez hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning, and the Reds stopped the Nationals' nine-game home winning streak.

Suarez went 3 for 4 with two RBI to help the Reds snap a three-game skid and improve to 4-0 against Washington this year, clinching the season series.

With the score knotted at 2, Suarez drove an 0-2 pitch from Casey Janssen (0-2) just inside the left-field foul pole.

SIDEBAR

Rookies Pederson Bryant, make All-Star team; A-Rod left out

NEW YORK (AP)—Less than three months after making his major league debut, Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant is an All-Star, one of two rookies selected along with Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Joc Pederson.

But there was no room on the roster for Alex Rodriguez, enjoying a renaissance in his return to the New York Yankees following a season-long drug suspension.

Dodgers catcher Yasmani Grandal also was a first-time selection Monday for the July 14 game in Cincinnati. Grandal became the third All-Star this year who served a drug-related suspension for conduct connected to the Biogenesis of America clinic. Seattle slugger Nelson Cruz and St. Louis shortstop Jhonny Peralta were elected by fans to start.

Albert Pujols of the Angels will start at first base for the AL in place of Detroit's Miguel Cabrera, who injured a calf muscle Friday. Pittsburgh's Andrew McCutchen will start in the NL outfield instead of Miami's Giancarlo Stanton, who broke his hand on June 26.

The 23-year-old Bryant made his big league debut April 17 and began Monday with a .279 average, 12 homers and 49 RBIs.

"Obviously, I've been at some All-Star Games, but I don't think anything can compare to making the major league All-Star team," he said. "It is kind of weird right now. We have a game in an hour, so I'm trying not to get too excited and whatnot, but obviously it's pretty cool."

He's open to participating in the Home Run Derby.

"It's all happened so quick. I've just been having so much fun with this, my baseball career," Bryant said. "Right now, it's a pretty special feeling for me."

Pederson, who also expects to be in the derby, had 20 homers but was hitting just .234. He was especially pleased fellow players elected him.

"They respect the way I play the game," he said.

A record six Royals were picked for the game, with players electing pitcher Wade Davis, and AL manager Ned Yost of Kansas City selecting reliever Kelvin Herrera. They join Royals outfielders Lorenzo Cain and Alex Gordon, catcher Salvador Perez and shortstop Alcides Escobar, who were elected on Sunday as starters.

"The one thing that Kelvin did that a lot of these guys didn't do was pitch in Game 7 of the World Series last year," Yost said. "That was kind of the deciding factor for me."

Royals third baseman Mike Moustakas is among the five players on the AL fan ballot for the 34th and final roster spot. Rodriguez is not.

The three-time MVP, who turns 40 on July 27, has 16 home runs and 47 RBIs for the Yankees after missing last year because of a drug suspension

"We spent a lot of time debating his name," said Yost, who preferred the versatility of an extra infielder or outfielder. "We felt we were covered in the DH. ... We wanted to get Alex Rodriguez on there and couldn't."

The league that wins the All-Star Game gets home-field advantage in the World Series.

Rodriguez is hitting .284 during a season in which he passed Willie Mays for fourth on the career home run list and topped 3,000 hits. But Texas' Prince Fielder, who was elected by players, joined Cruz as the only DHs on the AL roster.

"As I've said all season, my number one goal is helping the Yankees win a championship. I'm excited that we're in a good position to get there," Rodriguez said in a statement.

Eda aims to make best out of Universiade experience

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

EDA

Seiya Eda is hoping to make the best out of his experience in the XXVIII Summer World University Games when competition in athletics starts today at the Gwangju World Cup Stadium in Seo-gu District in Gwangju City, South Korea.

Eda will be among the 1,120 athletes who will see action in athletics' 25 events and he will race in the 1,500-meter run.

Northern Marianas Athletics coach Kurt Barnes said the former Saipan Southern High School middle distance runner will only compete in one event.

"Only in the 1,500m run. He won't have the proper recovery time to do the 5,000m and 10,000m runs," said Barnes, who is also the head of the two-member CNMI delegation, in an email to the SaipanTribune.

The first of three heats in the men's 1,500m run begins at 6:15pm local time at the Gwangju World Cup Stadium or the Universiade Main Stadium. Korea is just an hour behind Saipan.

Heat 2 is set 10 minutes after, while the last one is at 6:35pm. If Eda advances, he will be competing in the finals on Friday at 8:15pm.

Barnes said Eda has already acclimatized in Gwangju's cool climate. Temperatures yesterday reached 68 degrees Fahrenheit (20 degrees Celsius) with slight rain, while today's weather is expected at 79 degrees Fahrenheit (26 degrees Celsius) with cloudy and a couple of showers.

"It took Seiya a couple of days of slow and long distance running to get used to Gwangju's climate and the temperature change. He has adjusted now and is ready to go for a personal record," said Barnes, who left with Eda last July 2.

A total of 13,000 athletes are competing in 18 sports, spread out in 273 events, in the biennial Universiade Games.

"The Organizing Committee has done a wonderful job of preparing and organizing this elite event. A total of 35 high rise apartment buildings are being used to house the athletes and a huge dining hall that seats 4,000 serves delicious food 24 hours a day," said Barnes. "Korea is very nice and everyone is enjoying the Games."

Moroccan Said Aouita's Universiade record of 3:38:43 in the 1,500m run remains unbroken for more than three decades now. The former four-time Mediterranean Games champion and 1984 Los Angeles Olympics gold medalist made the feat during the 1981 edition in Bucharest, Romania.

Compatriot Hicham El Guerrouj, on the other hand, is the world record holder as the two-time Olympic champion set the best time of 3:26:00 during the Rome Grand Prix on July 14, 1998.

Little League HQ to decide new NMI DA

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

It will be up to the officials of the Little League headquarters in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania to decide who will be the next CNMI district administrator after voting last Friday ended up in a tie.

Former DA and Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada and Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director and Saipan Baseball League coordinator Tony Rogoilfoi were the two candidates for the post to be vacated by Mike Borja.

According to election board chairman Robert Guerrero, the tally ended up 1-1 after the voting done by representatives of the chartered Little Leagues of Saipan and Rota. Tinian failed to vote since it was not chartered this year.

"I will submit the report and minutes of the whole election process to the Little League headquarters and it will be up to them to decide who will be the next DA," said Guerrero in a telephone interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

"Now we will just have to wait for their decision," added Guerrero, who is also the Department of Corrections Commissioner.

Both Ada and Rogolifoi have served in various capacities under the Saipan Little League program and have been involved in baseball for most part of their lives.

The two candidates submitted their credentials, letter of intent, and other requirements to Guerrero and the latter will forward them to Little League headquarters.

Ada and Rogolifoi said they are leaving it up to Little League headquarters and they would gladly accept the decision since both of them have good intentions for the Little League baseball program in the CNMI.

Ada has been involved with the CNMI Little League program since the 90s and served as the Commonwealth's DA in mid 2000s before being replaced by Borja. The DPW head was also the tournament director when Saipan hosted the Asia Pacific regionals in 2008 and this year.

Rogolifoi, on the other hand, was a former director of the now defunct Division of Sports and Recreation and has been the SBL coordinator for more than 10 years now. He guided the CNMI to gold medals in the 2006 Saipan Micronesian Games and the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia and became the NMSA executive director when the sports organization became a private entity in 2013.

Women's World Cup final seen by record 26.7M in US

NEW YORK (AP)—The United States' win over Japan in the Women's World Cup final was the most viewed soccer game in the history of American television.

The 5-2 victory Sunday, which gave the Americans a record third title, was seen by 26.7 million viewers.

Fox said Monday its English-language coverage drew a 12.9 rating was seen by an average of 25.4 million, and NBC's Telemundo said its telecast averaged 1.27 million. The audience peaked at 30.9 million from 8:30-8:45 p.m. as the game neared its end, and 43.2 million tuned into some portion of the match.

Average viewership topped the previous mark of 26.5 million set when Germany beat Argentina in last year's men's World Cup final. That was seen by 17.3 million on ABC and 9.2 million on Spanish-language Univision.

Fox's viewership set a U.S. English-language record for soccer, topping the 18.22 million tuned to ESPN for the 2-2 draw between the American men and Portugal in the group stage on June 22 last year.

The previous high for a women's match was 17,975,000 on ABC for the United States' penalty kicks win over China in the 1999 Women's World Cup final.

Fox's viewership for this year's final at Vancouver, British Columbia, which started at 7 p.m. EDT, was nearly double the 13,458,000 that watched Japan's penalty-kicks win over the United States in the 2011 final. That game, played in Frankfurt, Germany, started at 2:45 p.m. EDT.

Fox's audience for the final exceeded the viewers for San Francisco's win over Kansas City in Game 7 of last year's World Series on Fox (23.5 million), Golden State's NBA title-winning victory over Cleveland last month on ABC (23,254,000) and Chicago's Stanley Cup-winning victory in Game 6 over Tampa Bay last month on NBC (8,005,000).

It was the highest for any U.S. broadcast since an average of 28.3 million saw Duke beat Wisconsin on CBS to win the NCAA men's basketball title in April.

The 52 World Cup matches on Fox, Fox Sports 1 and Fox Sports 2 averaged 1,824,000, a 21 percent increase from the average of 1,511,000 for the 32 games of the 2011 tournament on ESPN and ESPN2.

St. Louis had the highest average for the seven U.S. matches at 8.0, followed by Kansas City (7.5), Washington, D.C. (7.3), Austin, Texas (6.6), San Diego (6.4), Richmond, Virginia (6.2), and Denver and Baltimore (6.1).

An average of 232,000 unique streamers watched the final on Fox Sports Go, a record for the app.

In the weekend's other big soccer match, Chile's penalty-kicks win over Argentina in the finale of the Copa America tournament was viewed by 1.46 million in the United States: 464,000 on beIN Sports and 1 million on beIN Sports en Espanol.

CHENTSOVA

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qualifier and New Caledonia's Lara Grangeon (2:10.44), Fiji's Matelita Buarromo (2:10.74), New Caledonia's Lea Ricarrere (2:16.11), Fiji's Tieri Erasito (2:16.44), New Caledonia's Ylenka Maurin (2:17.08), Fiji's Brooke Smith (2:19.21), and Papua New Guinea's Anna-Liza Jane (2:20.91).

Besides advancing into the finals, Chentsova also set a new personal best time, surpassing her previous record of 2:18.64.

The Saipan International School graduate had two events in Day 2 of the swimming competition, finishing the 50m backstroke in 35.81, which is better than her PBT of 36.50 seconds. After two days of action in the pool, Chentsova has earned three new PBTS, marking her first last Monday in the 100m freestyle (1:04.31).

Chentsova's teammates—Angel De Jesus and Takumi Sugie—also raced yesterday. De Jesus submitted 2:33.35 in the 200m freestyle and 39.35 seconds in the 50mbackstroke. Sugie had only one event in Day 2, clocking in at 1:08.7 in the 100m butterfly.

"We are finally getting into the groove after the first day of competition. The swimmers are getting more comfortable with the format of prelims in the morning and finals in the evening," CNMI swim coach Jacoby Winkfield said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"The team swam well with some personal bests. It was good to get out and finally race. It is great being here and seeing all the other Pacific island nations, racing against them, making friends, and learning to swim at a high level," Winkfield added.

The coach also shared his wards experience during the elaborated opening ceremony last Saturday and their observations at the Athletes Village.

"The opening ceremony was amazing. There was a bit of a wait prior to entering the stadium, the opening, but when we got into the stadium, the atmosphere was electric. Being there with so many nations, the spectators, along with the cultural performances made the evening to remember," Sugie was quoted as saying in the same email Winkfield sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

"The village is a brand new facility and I enjoy the fact that there are several countries living in one area so we can get a chance to interact and hang out with athletes from other countries. It's a home away from home," De Jesus said.

Meanwhile, results of the CNMI va'a and sailing teams have yet to be posted at the Pacific Games website after two days of competition. However, the Top 3 finishers in the two events in va'a last Monday were already named. Tahiti won the gold both in the 500m and 1,500m races. Cook Islands and Guam completed the podium finish in the 500m, while New Caledonia and Wallis & Futuna joined Tahiti in the Top 3 in the 1,500m event.

Va'a competition has two days left (July 9 and 10), excluding yesterday's races, while sailing will run until July 11.

In other news, host PNG is still ahead in the medal standings with its 13 golds, four silvers, and four bronzes. Australia moved from third to second with its 6-13-5 tally, while New Caledonia dropped to third with its 5-3-5 haul. Samoa (4-8-0) and Fiji (4-4-7) complete the Top 5.

CNMI

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Soccer School (Hong Kong) came less than 24 hours after half of the team arrived in Hong Kong for the three-day tournament. The second batch of the CNMI Women's All-Star Team left Saipan on July 6 in time for their 8:30am match versus Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) yesterday, while the first group has been there since June 22, training with the club's coaches.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Women's All-Star Team will go for win No. 2 when it takes on South China Agricultural University Women's Football Club today at 10:30am (12:30pm Saipan time). The team from China is the top favorite in the four-squad tournament. After their duel against China, the CNMI players will challenge Singapore National Women's A Team tomorrow morning.

The squad with the best record in the round-robin competition will be declared the champion in the tournament being held in celebration of Luen Thai's 50th anniversary.

BENGHIT

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Outlaw" Camacho and Jadrien "The Last King" Camacho lost by guillotine choke against Team Zalaka's Timothy Salas and TrenchTech's A.J. "Smalls" Aldan, respectively.

Jonathan tapped out with 1:26 remaining in the first round, while Jadrien surrendered in the 2:56 mark also in the first round.

Cousins "Shiska" Bob Alvarez and Roman "Sonic Boom" Alvarez had an exhibition match in Brazilian jiu-jitsu as part of TrenchTech's promotion of the art of grappling and submission fighting.

In other news, TrenchTech promoter Cuki Alvarez said that Ning "The Slicer" Cepeda is doing fine after being accidentally kicked on his balls by Eric "Gatty" Gatmen in their lightweight title match.

Alvarez added the ultrasound showed Cepeda suffering from bruised testicles. "The doctors at the Commonwealth Health Center said it is not that serious and he will be fine in a couple of weeks. He just needs some rest and is now recovering from that blow."

Gatmen and Cepeda were locked in arms while standing when the former accidentally hit the latter's balls in an attempt to deliver several knees to his opponent. Cepeda dropped down to the canvass wincing in pain, prompting referee Alvarez to immediately step in and stop the fight. The match was declared no contest.

2015 ASPAC Junior, Senior, Big League Regional Tournament

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

Chinese-Taipei Junior League players warm up before taking the field during one of their practice sessions for the 2015 ASPAC Junior, Senior, Big League Regional Tournament.

Guam Senior League players talk near the pitcher's mound before the start of their game against Hong Kong.

CNMI Big League first baseman Cedric Ada, right, prepares to hit during their opening game against Guam.

Hong Kong's Thomas Anthony Hill, right, crosses home plate, while CNMI catcher Henry Aguon waits for the relay throw in their Junior League game.

Hong Kong Junior League team manager Thomas Harrison Hill, left, talks to his players to point out key areas they need to improve on after practice at the Miguel Basa Pangelinan Softball Field.

CNMI's Noel Cabrera, left, watches the pitcher as he takes a lead from second base in their Junior League game against Guam.

CNMI pitcher Francisco Lieto prepares to throw to the plate in their opening game against Guam in the Big League division.

The Philippines' Ethan Mora, right, runs toward third base, while the CNMI's Joaquin Chong looks on in their Senior League match.

Guam hurler Ross Perez winds up a pitch in their Junior League game against Australia.

Philippines Junior League coach Terence Vispo, 20, talks to his infielders, while Australia's batter Brock Molloy, left, waits for play to resume.

Serena sweeps Venus at Wimbledon

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Sports

Eda aims to make best out of Universiade experience

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Chentsova enters finals in 200m freestyle

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Victoria Chentsova made it to the medal round of the 200m freestyle race in the XV Pacific Games yesterday at the Taurama Aquatic Centre and Indoor Sports Complex in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

Chentsova competed in the qualifying heat of the 200m freestyle event yesterday morning and finished third overall out of 16 swimmers after clocking in at 2:15.64. She was scheduled to swim in last night's finals (results were unavailable at press time) against top

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI's Victoria Chentsova, seen here competing in a local meet, made it to the finals of the 200m freestyle relay event in the XV Pacific Games yesterday at the Taurama Aquatic Centre and Indoor Sports Complex in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

CNMI Women's All-Stars win in HK

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Women's All-Star Team prevailed in the opening match in the 2015 Luen Thai Cup after slipping past a selection from Chelsea FC Soccer School, 2-1, yesterday in Hong Kong.

Lalaine Pagarao and Dianne Pablo delivered the goals for the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association-backed squad. Pagarao scored the first goal in the match off a miscue from Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong), while Pablo nailed the winning goal off a penalty kick.

Both Pagarao and Pablo were part of the CNMI Women's All-Stars' starting 11, joining Angie Ito, Mia Carreon, siblings Jeralyn and Jeraldine Castillo, Elaine Enriquez, Lyka Sally, Alexandria Vergara, Krizel Tuazon, and goalie Chevy Kate Alipio. Other members of the squad are Carla Ballesteros. Guinevere Borja, Chloe Salvosa, De Jana Muna, Diana Maniacop, Jennifer Perena, and Sara Allen. Former Olympian and Chelsea FC Soccer School (Hong Kong) technical director Luam Ken Koo is the team's coach and is assisted by Jimmy Tang.

The game against Chelsea FC

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Women's All-Star Team's starters pose for a group photo before playing against Chelsea FC Soccer School yesterday in Hong Kong.

Electrifying debut win for Benghit

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Renz "The Intense" Benghit scored a unanimous win over Guam's Frank "Hellboy" Quidachay in one of the nine undercard bouts offered in last Friday's Rites of Passage 18: Warpath at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Benghit and Quidachay, who were both making their debut, did not disappoint the fight fans that braved the stormy weather brought by Typhoon Chan-Hom, which left the Marianas early Monday morning.

The Tinian bet and Quidachay battled through three five-minute rounds with neither fighter backing down and giving it their all to get the crowd up on their feet. It was really an intense bout as both fighters traded blows and tried to force each other into submission for two rounds. Theirs was the only fight that went the full distance.

Quidachay, the Team High Blood Pressure Guam member, had several chances of ending the duel in the third having the advantage as he tried to force Benghit to tap out. Quidachay, with less than two minutes left in the third, looked headed for the win when he got Benghit pinned down and cornered in another attempt to force his opponent to submission.

But Benghit, like in the earlier rounds, again managed to get out of trouble until the final bell, leaving the judges' scorecards to decide the outcome of the electrifying bout.

Benghit celebrated when referee Alverick Alvarez raised his hand, as the former was announced the winner of the bout, while a look of frustration was seen on Quidachay's face.

Meanwhile, Trench Tech's Cole Morrill and Guam Muay Thai's Mike "the Medic" Pacini also debuted with wins in a pair of fights that lasted two rounds, while five earlier contests only needed one round to finish.

Morrill forced RedAntsAcademy's Jones Langu (1-2) to tap out with 1:46 left in the second round via armbar, while Pacini defeated Ko "Pak Pak" Palacios via referee stoppage with 1:45 to go.

Wesly "Baby Bully" Ponio, Jeff Garcia, and Ryan "Snoflake" Perez opened up the night's event with first round wins over Kier "The Radical Kidd" Agda, Daniel Flow Motion" Floor, and Fradley Jepen in their kickboxing matches.

Ponio scored a referee stoppage win with 1:41 in the first round against Agda; Garcia defeated Floor by verbal submission; and Perez scored a technical knockout win over Jepen.

Mike Muna, in one of the six full contact mixed martial arts fights, defeated Matthew "Mighty Mouse" Sablan via keylock with 2:15 left in the first round, while twins Jonathan "The

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JON PEREZ
Renz "The Intense" Benghit, right, celebrates after being declared as the winner by referee Alverick Alvarez, center, in his match against Guam's Frank "Hellboy" Quidachay in their undercard bout in last Friday's Rites of Passage 18: Warpath.